



Women History Month

KATHARINE JOHNSON

Reading Comprehension



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

6. What prestigious award was Katherine Johnson awarded in 2015 for her pioneering work?

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

DIRECTIONS: CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER.

1. When was Katherine Johnson born?
- August 26, 1928
 - August 26, 1988
 - August 26, 1938
 - August 26, 1948

2. Where was Katherine Johnson born?
- White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia
 - White Sulphur Springs, North Carolina
 - White Sulphur Springs, Tennessee
 - White Sulphur Springs, Kentucky

3. What degrees did Katherine Johnson earn?
- Mathematics and Spanish
 - Physics and Chemistry
 - Mathematics and French
 - Engineering and History

4. In which organization did Katherine Johnson work?
- NASA
 - NACA
 - NADA
 - NASC

5. Which historic space mission was Katherine Johnson's calculation critical to?
- Apollo moon landing
 - John Glenn's orbital flight
 - Space Shuttle program
 - Mercury-Redstone

KATHERINE JOHNSON



In our exploration of Women's History Month, we turn our attention to Katherine Johnson, a pioneering mathematician whose calculations were critical to the success of NASA's early space missions. Born on August 26, 1918, in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, Katherine Johnson played a vital role in advancing space exploration and breaking down racial and gender barriers.

Katherine Johnson's early aptitude for mathematics was evident from a young age. She excelled academically and graduated summa cum laude with degrees in Mathematics and French from West Virginia University. Despite facing segregation and discrimination as an African American woman, Johnson's exceptional skills led her to a position at NASA's predecessor, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), in 1953.

During her time at NACA and later NASA, Katherine Johnson became known for her accuracy in complex celestial navigation calculations. Her work was instrumental in the success of several historic space missions, including Alan Shepard's 1961 journey, which made him the first American in space, and John Glenn's orbital flight in 1962.

Johnson's calculations were so trusted that Glenn reportedly insisted on her verification before his historic flight. Her groundbreaking contributions extended to the Apollo moon landing missions and the Space Shuttle program. In 2015, Johnson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her pioneering work.

Learning about Katherine Johnson's mathematics, space exploration, and societal barriers.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, let us honor Johnson's contributions to mathematics and science, paving the way for future generations of mathematicians and scientists.

NO-PREP

READING PASSAGES WITH TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

KATHERINE JOHNSON



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Learning about Katherine Johnson offers an introduction to the world of mathematics, space exploration, and the triumphs of individuals who overcome societal barriers.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, Katherine Johnson's legacy serves as an inspiration, reminding of the significant contributions women have made to scientific advancements and space exploration, paving the way for future generations of mathematicians and scientists.

READING COMPREHENSION

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

6. What prestigious award was Katherine Johnson awarded in 2015 for her pioneering work?

- a) Nobel Prize in Physics
- b) National Medal of Science
- c) Presidential Medal of Freedom
- d) Fields Medal in Mathematics

7. Katherine Johnson's accuracy in calculations was particularly crucial for which astronaut's orbital flight in 1962?

ANSWERS

DATE: _____

6. THE CORRECT ANSWER

Johnson born?

Johnson born?

- a) Wyoming
- b) West Virginia
- c) Virginia
- d) Maryland

Katherine Johnson graduate with from West Virginia University?

- a) Spanish
- b) French
- c) English
- d) History

4. In which organization did Katherine Johnson work initially before NASA?

- a) NASA
- b) NACA
- c) NADA
- d) NASC

5. Which historic space mission made Alan Shepard the first American in space, with Katherine Johnson's calculations playing a crucial role?

- a) Apollo moon landing
- b) John Glenn's orbital flight
- c) Space Shuttle program
- d) Mercury-Redstone 3

Ready to Print

ANSWERS

- 1.) August 26, 1918
- 2.) White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia
- 3.) Mathematics and French
- 4.) NACA
- 5.) Mercury-Redstone 3
- 6.) Presidential Medal of Freedom
- 7.) John Glenn
- 8.) Apollo 8
- 9.) Trust in her accuracy
- 10.) Diverse perspectives in science

CLOSE READING GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS INCLUDED

GROUP ACTIVITY

TITLE OF TEXT _____

WHAT I THINK _____

ANNOTATING MARKS

- ✓ Circle powerful words or phrases.
- ✓ Underline words or phrases you do not understand.
- ✓ Place a question mark next to words or phrases that make you think.
- ✓ Write an example of something you learned.

SUMMARIZE

Write a summary of the passage. The main idea should be stated in your first sentence. Then use the four details to write four supporting sentences. Close your summary by restating the main idea.

NAME: _____

MAIN IDEA

TITLE OF TEXT _____

NAME: _____

MAIN IDEA _____

SUPPORTING DETAILS #1 _____

SUPPORTING DETAILS #2 _____

SUPPORTING DETAILS #3 _____

VOCABULARY GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

TITLE OF TEXT _____

NAME: _____

UNKNOWN WORD _____

UNKNOWN WORD _____

UNKNOWN WORD _____

CLUES FROM TEXT & MEANING _____

CLUES FROM TEXT & MEANING _____

CLUES FROM TEXT & MEANING _____