

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE
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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Katherine G. Johnson: The Human Computer



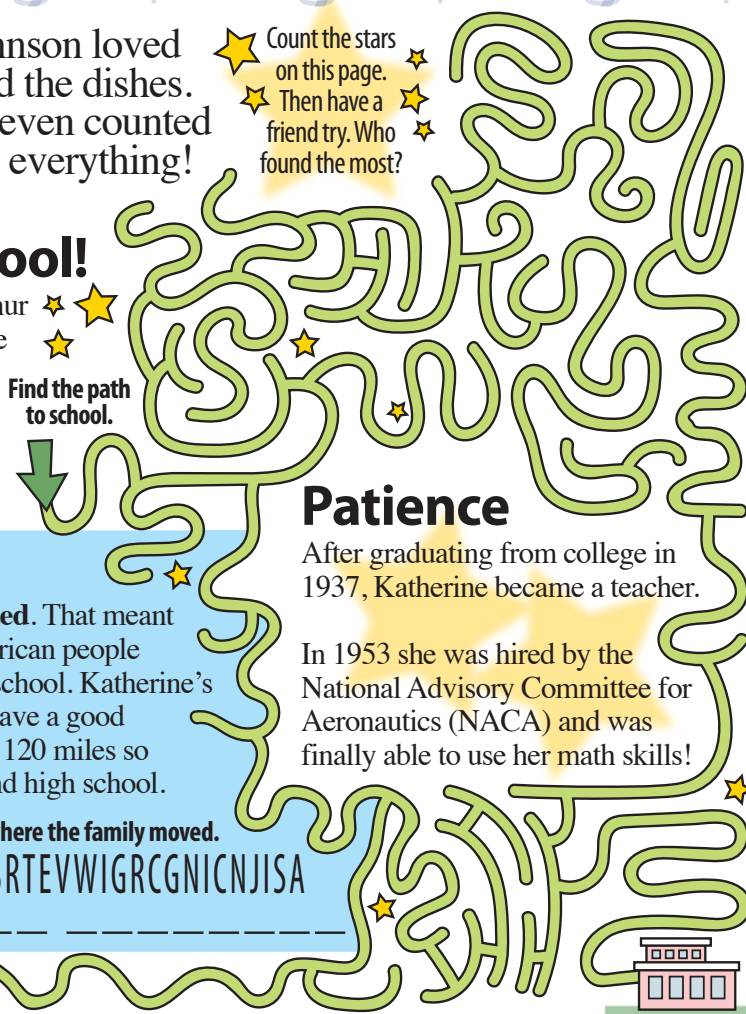
As a child, Katherine Johnson loved to count. She counted the dishes. She counted the steps. She even counted stones. She simply counted everything!

Count the stars on this page. Then have a friend try. Who found the most?

Let Me Go to School!

Katherine was born in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. She was the youngest of four children and she couldn't wait to join her siblings at school! She used to follow them as they walked to school.

Find the path to school.



Hard Work

Katherine said it was hard work to be good at math and her other subjects. And work hard she did. She skipped two grades in elementary school, and went on to get degrees in mathematics and French.

Determination

Katherine's community was segregated. That meant there were many places African-American people couldn't go, including the local high school. Katherine's parents were so determined that she have a good education that they moved the family 120 miles so Katherine and her siblings could attend high school.

Circle every other letter to discover where the family moved.

KIDNUSWTVIBTCUZNEMWQFESRTEVWIGRCGNICNJISA

Patience

After graduating from college in 1937, Katherine became a teacher.

In 1953 she was hired by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) and was finally able to use her math skills!

Curiosity

Because of her intelligence, curiosity, and positive attitude, Katherine was asked to work on many different projects. When NACA turned its attention to space flight, it changed its name to NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration).

Katherine was asked to work on the complicated math problems that would establish the flight path for the spacecraft that would take the first American into space and back in 1961. Use the code to discover his name.

- ▲ = A
- = D
- ★ = E
- ✕ = H
- ◼ = L
- = N
- ◻ = P
- ◼ = R
- ✓ = S

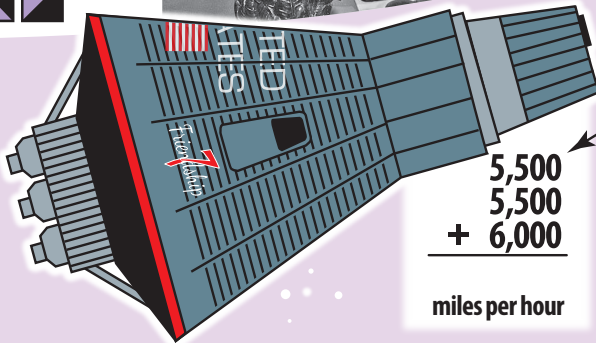


The Human Computer

In 1953, computers were not as good as they are today and mathematicians, who were called "computers," did the math needed for flight research.



How fast did Friendship 7 travel in its 4 hour and 56 minute flight? Do the math!



$$\begin{array}{r} 5,500 \\ + 5,500 \\ \hline 6,000 \end{array}$$

miles per hour

Count the Numbers

Take one page of the newspaper and circle all of the numbers you can find. Then, count the number of numbers! What do the different numbers show?

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Persistence

Replace the missing words.

When Katherine was _____ at NASA, women were not allowed in the spaceflight meetings. She kept _____ if she could go, even asking if there was a _____ against it. Her persistence paid off and she was finally invited to attend all _____.

Over time, even though electronic _____ took on more work at NASA, Johnson remained highly valued for her accuracy. She performed calculations for John Glenn's successful orbits _____.

Working on these manned flight paths was stressful. Katherine knew that if her calculations were off by even a few feet or seconds, the astronauts might not make it _____!

Standards Link: Students use strategies to understand literary passages

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Humility

Katherine won many awards and made history for the space program, for women's rights and for racial equality. But she always remained humble. She quoted her father. Replace the vowels to find out what her father would tell her.

“Y__ AR_ AS G__D
 AS __NYB_DY. B_T
 Y__ 'RE N_ B__TT_R.”

Standards Link: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

- KATHERINE
- CURIOSITY
- POSITIVE
- ACCURACY
- COMPUTER
- COUNTED
- DISHES
- ORBIT
- SPACE
- STEPS
- WHITE
- MATH
- PATH
- FOUR

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

D K S P A C E W E A
 E W H I T E V N R C
 T Y T I S O I R U C
 N M B A D R T T O U
 U R P H E I I E F R
 O M A H A T S I E A
 C H T A M I O H A C
 N A H S T E P S E Y
 K R E T U P M O C S

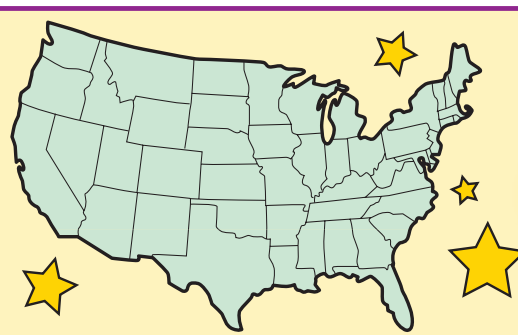
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Find a Story of Character

Katherine Johnson had many character traits that led to her successes. Look through the newspaper for an article about a successful person and make a list of character traits that help to make that person so successful.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.



What State has the most math teachers?

ANSWER: MATHchusetts!

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