

Katherine Johnson Mathematics

Name / chosen name: _____

Katherine Johnson · 1918–2020
Mathematics and spaceflight

Katherine Johnson was a mathematician whose work helped NASA plan space missions. She calculated flight paths and checked complex numbers. Before John Glenn's 1962 orbital flight, she checked calculations produced by electronic computers. Her work also supported other major space missions. Johnson worked in a period when racial and gender barriers limited opportunities. Her story is about mathematical skill, careful checking and teamwork, as well as the effort needed to work through unfair barriers.

1. What is one achievement described in the text?

2. Which detail supports your answer?

3. How does this contribution connect to a wider community or field?

Source: <https://www.nasa.gov/people-of-nasa/katherine-g-johnson/>