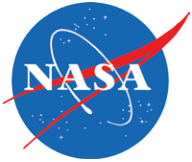


# The Women Who Have Helped Build NASA



These women all worked at NASA. Their work also helped to change the way that people treated women and Black people.

## Dorothy Vaughan

- Dorothy learnt how to set up and use computers.
- She trained lots of other women to use computers too.



## Katherine Johnson

- Katherine began working at NASA in 1953.
- She used her excellent maths skills to plan routes into space.



## Mary Jackson

- Mary was NASA's first Black female engineer.
- She also helped many other women in their jobs.



## Christine Darden

- Christine found out a lot about the sound that an aircraft can make.
- She was given lots of awards for her work.



# Questions

1. What did these women help to change? Tick one.
  - ☐ the way that children learnt about space
  - ☐ the way that people treated women and Black people
  - ☐ the way that rockets were painted
2. What did Dorothy learn to do with computers? Tick one.
  - ☐ set up computers
  - ☐ buy new computers
  - ☐ build computers
3. When did Katherine begin working at NASA? Tick one.
  - ☐ 1923
  - ☐ 1953
  - ☐ 1983
4. What job did Mary do? Tick one.
  - ☐ driver
  - ☐ doctor
  - ☐ engineer
5. What did Christine find out a lot about? Tick one.
  - ☐ how quickly an aircraft can go
  - ☐ the sound that an aircraft makes
  - ☐ the size of a rocket

# Answers

1. What did these women help to change? Tick one.
  - ☐ the way that children learnt about space
  - ☒ **the way that people treated women and Black people**
  - ☐ the way that rockets were painted
2. What did Dorothy learn to do with computers? Tick one.
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  - ☐ 1923
  - ☒ **1953**
  - ☐ 1983
4. What job did Mary do? Tick one.
  - ☐ driver
  - ☐ doctor
  - ☒ **engineer**
5. What did Christine find out a lot about? Tick one.
  - ☐ how quickly an aircraft can go
  - ☒ **the sound that an aircraft makes**
  - ☐ the size of a rocket

# The Women Who Have Helped Build NASA



These women all did very important jobs at NASA. They were special because their work helped to change the way that people treated women and Black people.

## Dorothy Vaughan

In 1943, Dorothy got a job solving difficult maths problems by hand. She then became the very first Black manager at NASA.

Dorothy also learnt how to set up electronic computers. She trained lots of other women to use computers too. Dorothy might have helped Katherine, Mary and Christine.



## Katherine Johnson

Katherine joined NASA in 1953. She worked hard and was put on a special project. Katherine had amazing maths skills that helped her to plan safe routes into space. She helped the astronauts to go to the Moon.



### Mary Jackson

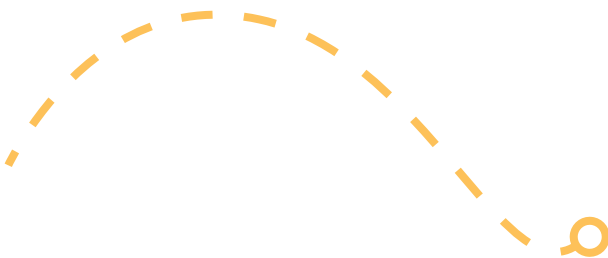
Mary began working at NASA to help to solve maths problems, just like Dorothy did. She worked hard to become NASA's first Black female engineer. Mary also tried to help to make sure that other women were treated fairly in their jobs.



### Dr Christine Darden

Christine also joined NASA in 1967 to solve maths problems. She became one of a few female engineers after lots of hard work.

Christine found out lots about the sound that an aircraft makes when it is going really fast. She became the first Black woman to have one of the top jobs at NASA. Christine was also given many awards for her work.



# Questions

1. Who did Dorothy train to use computers? Tick one.

- ☐ men
- ☐ women
- ☐ children

2. What skills helped Katherine to plan safe routes into space?

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3. What did Mary do in her career at NASA? Tick **two**.

- ☐ Mary became NASA's first Black female engineer.
- ☐ Mary helped to make sure that other women were fairly treated.
- ☐ Mary helped to plan safe routes into space.

4. What was Christine given for her work?

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5. Draw **three** lines and match the year with the event in the women's lives.

1949

Christine joined NASA to solve maths problems.

1953

Katherine joined NASA.

1967

Dorothy got a job solving difficult maths problems.

# Answers

1. Who did Dorothy train to use computers? Tick one.

- ☐ men
- ☒ **women**
- ☐ children

2. What skills helped Katherine to plan safe routes into space?

**Katherine had amazing maths skills that helped her to plan safe routes into space.**

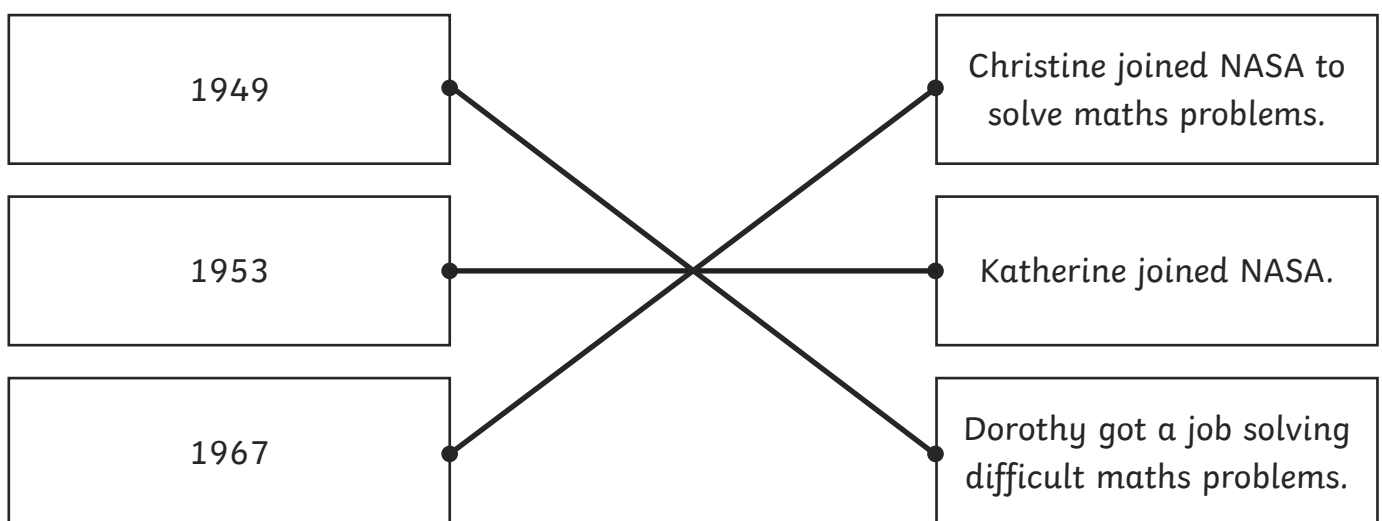
3. What did Mary do in her career at NASA? Tick **two**.

- ☒ **Mary became NASA's first Black female engineer.**
- ☒ **Mary helped to make sure that other women were fairly treated.**
- ☐ Mary helped to plan safe routes into space.

4. What was Christine given for her work?

**Christine was given many awards for her work.**

5. Draw **three** lines and match the year with the event in the women's lives.



# The Women Who Have Helped Build NASA

These women all had very important jobs at the space agency called NASA. They were particularly special because their work helped to promote the rights of women and Black people.

## Dorothy Vaughan

In 1943, Dorothy got a job calculating complex maths problems by hand. She became the very first Black supervisor at NASA in 1949. Dorothy believed that everyone should be treated equally.

One of her greatest achievements was that she learnt how to program electronic computers. She became so skilled that she trained lots of other women to become programmers too. Dorothy might have even helped Katherine, Mary and Christine when they joined NASA.



## Katherine Johnson

In 1939, Katherine went to university to study maths. This was at a time when very few Black women went to university.

Katherine began working at NASA in 1953. She worked hard and was moved onto a space flight research project. Katherine used her amazing maths skills to help to plan routes into space. She helped to send astronauts to the Moon and back.

In 2015, Katherine was awarded the 'Presidential Medal of Freedom' for her work.



### Mary Jackson

Mary grew up loving science. She began working at NASA as a 'human computer' in 1951. Her job was to solve complicated maths problems, just like Dorothy did. She became NASA's first Black female engineer.

Years later, Mary left engineering to try to help to make sure that other women were treated fairly in their jobs. She was known for her volunteer work at NASA and in her community.



### Dr Christine Darden

Christine joined NASA in 1967 to solve problems like the other women. After eight years, Christine asked to be moved to another job. She became one of a few women engineers at NASA at the time.

She was put in a team who researched the sound that aircraft make when they are travelling at very high speeds. During her career, she wrote more than 50 important research papers. She also became the first Black woman to be promoted into a very senior job at NASA. Christine was also awarded many certificates and medals for her work.



# Questions

1. Fill in the missing word.

These women all had very important jobs at the \_\_\_\_\_ agency called NASA.

2. When did Dorothy start her job calculating complex maths problems by hand?

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3. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they happen in the text. The first one has been done for you.

☐

Katherine began working at NASA.

☒

1

Katherine went to university to study maths.

☐

Katherine was awarded the 'Presidential Medal of Freedom'.

☐

Katherine was moved onto a space flight research project.

4. **Mary's job at NASA was to solve complicated maths problems.**

Find and copy one word than means the same as 'complicated'.

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5. Why do you think that Christine was awarded many certificates and medals for her work? Tick one.

- ☐ Christine asked to be an engineer.
- ☐ Christine wrote more than 50 important research papers.
- ☐ Christine liked the sound that aircraft make.

6. What would you like to find out about these amazing women? Write a question.

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# Answers

1. Fill in the missing word.

These women all had very important jobs at the **space** agency called NASA.

2. When did Dorothy start her job calculating complex maths problems by hand?

**Dorothy started her job in 1943.**

3. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they happen in the text. The first one has been done for you.

2

Katherine began working at NASA.

1

Katherine went to university to study maths.

4

Katherine was awarded the 'Presidential Medal of Freedom'.

3

Katherine was moved onto a space flight research project.

4. **Mary's job at NASA was to solve complicated maths problems.**

Find and copy one word than means the same as 'complicated'.

**complex**

5. Why do you think that Christine was awarded many certificates and medals for her work? Tick one.

- ☐ Christine asked to be an engineer.
- ☒ **Christine wrote more than 50 important research papers.**
- ☐ Christine liked the sound that aircraft make.

6. What would you like to find out about these amazing women? Write a question.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Did the women enjoy working at NASA?**