

# The Mathematician's Project

## Katherine Johnson

### History:

- Born August 26, 1918 in West Virginia
- Her family had to move so that she could go to a more challenging HS that accepted black students
- She took every math class at the college; they had to add more, just for her!



### Work as a Mathematician:

- First worked as a teacher because that was the only job an educated black woman could be hired for
- Worked at NASA: She did the calculations for John Glenn's orbit around the earth and for the first moon landing!
- Specialized in Analytic Geometry

### (Some of her) Awards and Recognition:

- Received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015
- They even made a movie about how amazing she is!



“I asked questions; I wanted to know why. They got used to me asking questions and being the only woman there.”