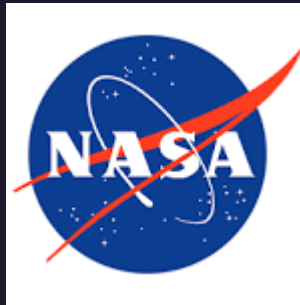




Katherine Johnson and NASA





What Is NASA?

NASA stands for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The organisation is in charge of the science behind all things to do with space and space travel in the USA.

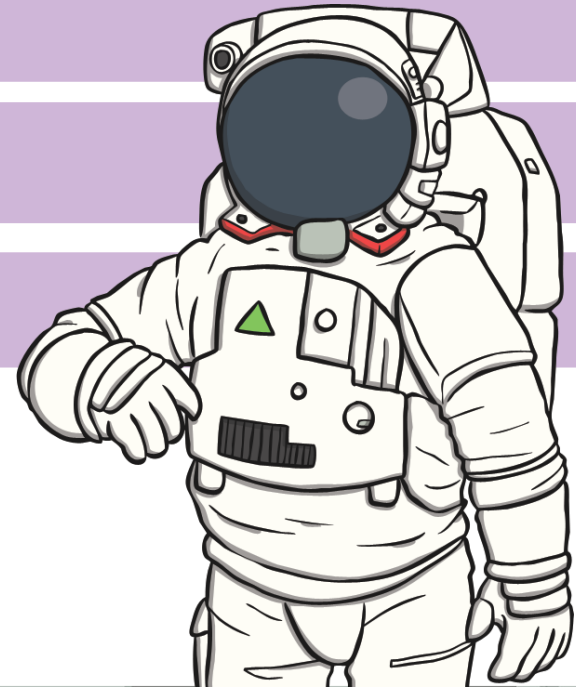


NASA is based in Washington DC in the United States. There are ten more bases around the US, all working on different things related to space.

What Is NASA?

People who work at NASA do some of the following things:

- Build satellites which help scientists learn things about space and Earth
- Send astronauts into space to bring back information about the Moon and the Solar System
- Teach children about space and the universe
- Work on new space projects and inventions



Katherine Johnson

Katherine Johnson was born in West Virginia in 1918. At school, Katherine was very good at maths and went on to study it at university. This was at a time when not many Black women went to university.

Katherine heard that NASA needed mathematicians and she started working there in 1953. She worked so hard that she was moved to a spaceflight project.

On the spaceflight project, Katherine used her maths skills to work out an astronaut's journey to the Moon and back to make sure that they returned to Earth safely.



Katherine Johnson

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

Katherine died in February 2020, aged 101.

Did You Know...?

Astronaut John Glenn wouldn't set off on a mission until Katherine had checked the calculations.

