



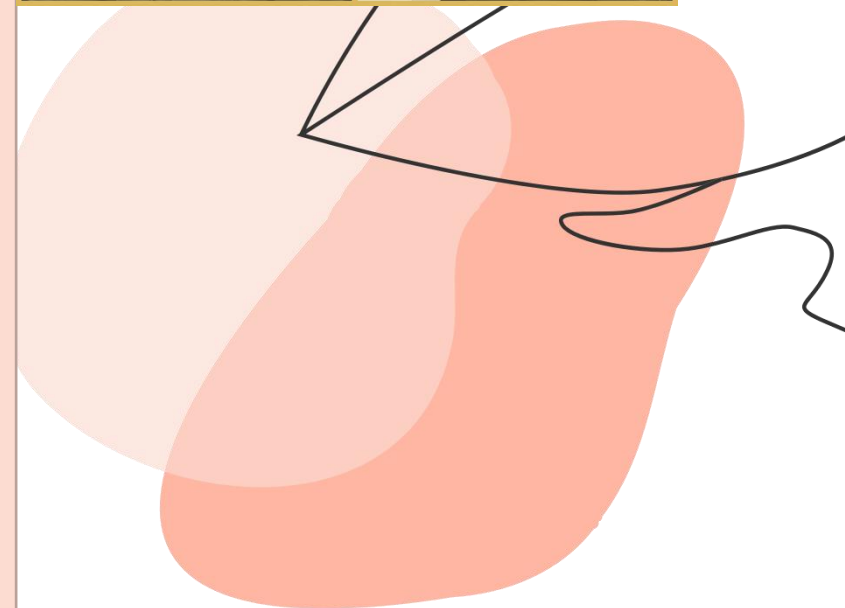
My Black Woman Story- Mary Jackson by Charlia Webb



Introduction

From birth, since slavery, black women have been the targets for misperception throughout society. Black women have been behind the scenes of many historical events, but are often forgotten or left out to make the men look better.

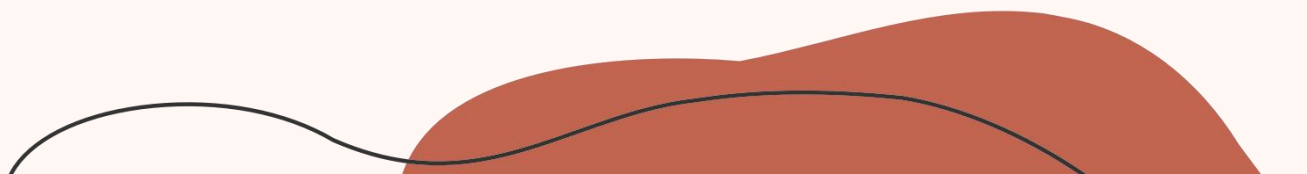
However, some have made themselves known by fighting for their rights, ensuring there is equality between both genders. One of the many who have impacted our lives is, Mary W. Jackson, a great mathematician and an even better aerospace engineer. Born in Hampton, Virginia on April 9th, 1921 to Frank Winston and Ella Scott Winston, this historical black woman is well known for her discoveries as an aerospace engineer.





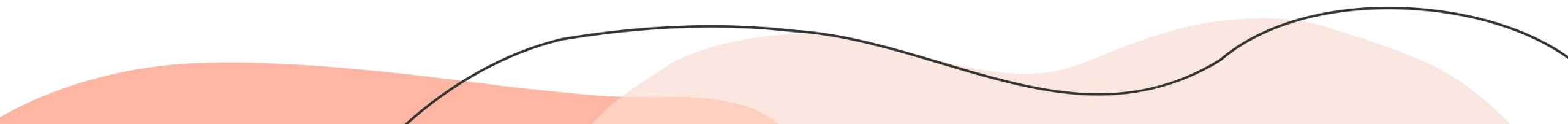
Mary Jackson's Education Journey

Mary graduated high school with the highest honors, allowing her to further her education in college. She attended Hampton Institute, now known as Hampton University, in 1942 and graduated with a dual degree. This dual degree was accomplished in Mathematics and Physical Science. Her path towards being an aerospace engineer was not as one would say, direct or rather a straight line.



Mary's Career Journey

After graduating from Hampton University, she became a math teacher at a colored school in Calvert County, Maryland. After a year of teaching, she returned home , and then found a position as a receptionist at the King Street USO (United Service Organizations) club, serving the black population of the city. She was a bookkeeper at Hampton Institute's Health Department, an army secretary and a stint at home following the birth of her son Levi Jackson Jnr., (The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2017)

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Mary's Career Journey Cont'd

Mary W. Jackson secured a job at the National Advising Committee for Aeronautics (NASA) in 1951. She began working with an engineer in 1953 and later received the qualifications to become the first ever black female engineer at NASA in 1958.



Mary's Later Work

In 1958, Mary co-authored her first report known as "Effects of Nose Angle and Mach Number on Transition on Cones at Supersonic Speeds."

Mary helped to launch the space program and later retired to become an activist for women's working rights. This empowered women and gave them the courage to use their voice to fight against gender and race discrimination

She worked to help women and many others advance in their careers, guiding them in different ways to study and change their status to achieve promotions they never imagined getting. She created leaders who were able to pass on the knowledge of expanding their desired careers from generations to generations.

Her Achievements

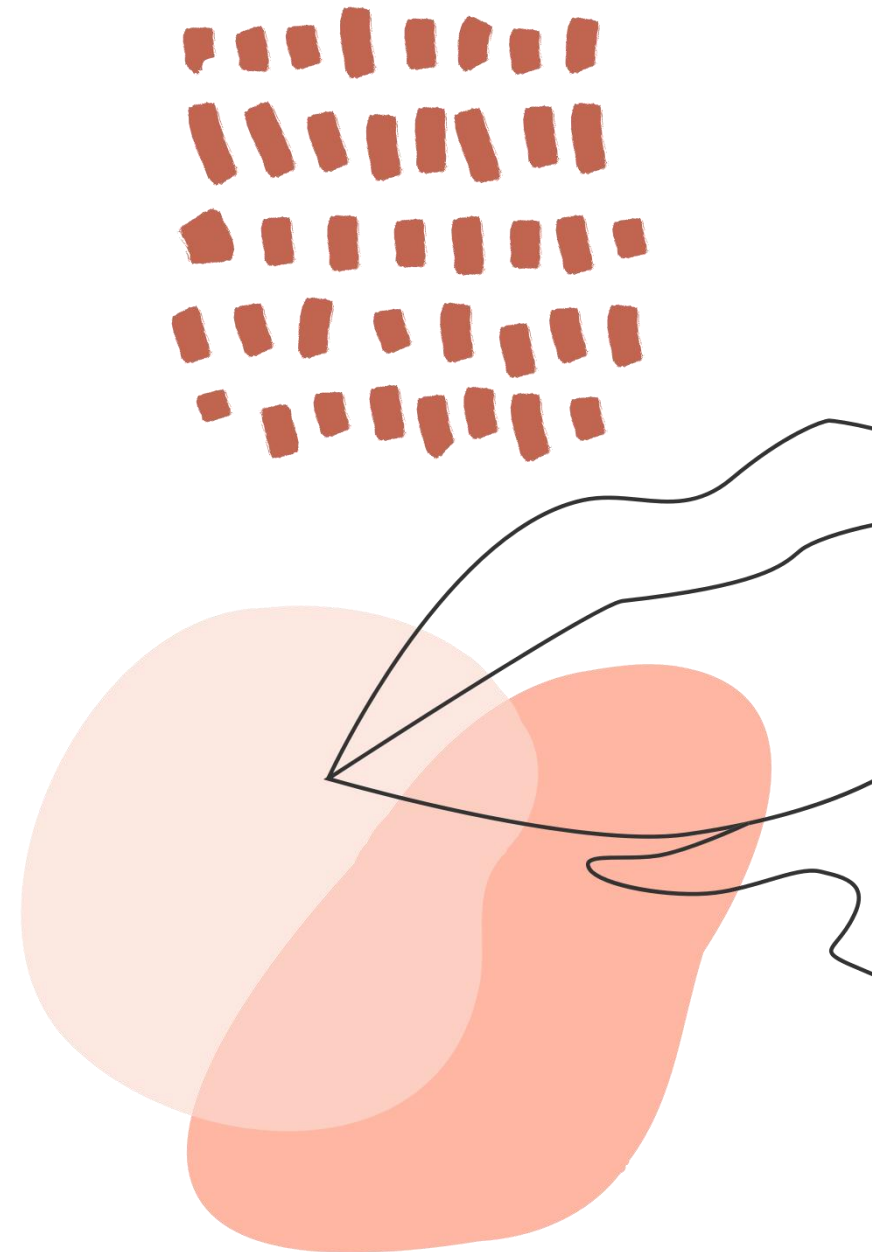
Mary was presented an achievement award in 1976 as Langley's Volunteer of the Year, served as a chair on a United Way campaign, was a Girl Scout troop leader for over 30 years and was even a member of the National Technical Association. She truly was a role model and set the bars high for others to follow. (Nasa, n.d.)



How does it relate to course content

In week 12, we spoke about black women and the impact of globalization. **In the workplace back then and even now, Black women find it difficult to receive promotions or even pay as their colleagues who have a different race. Mary Jackson had to go on trial just to attend an all white school just so she can have a promotion as an engineer.**


Throughout every week, the common topics were sexism, racism and discrimination of black women. Mary Jackson was given a hard time because of all three factors listed above. However, she pushed through hardships and became a successful engineer.





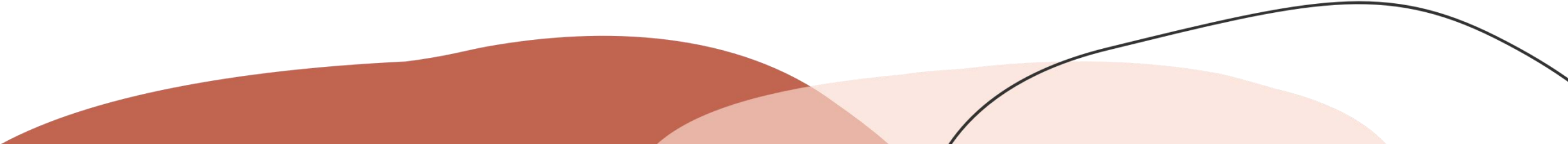
Conclusion

In conclusion, Black women have been behind the success of many historical events. They are never praised and are often left out of the spotlight because of their gender and race. It is time for black women to be recognized and acknowledged for all they have done for our society. According to [vocabulary.com](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/hero), a hero can be defined as, "a person distinguished by exceptional courage and nobility and strength." ("Hero - Definition, Meaning & Synonyms," n.d.) Even though Mary passed on February 11, 2005, she remains an inspiration to all, leaving behind a powerful message to always follow your dreams and never let the circumstances you face, determine who you are as a person and what you can achieve.



Questions

Thank you for listening!
Any Questions?





Resources

Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Mary Jackson". Encyclopedia Britannica, 5 Apr. 2022,

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Mary-Jackson-mathematician-and-engineer>. Accessed 11 December 2022.

NASA. (n.d.). Mary W. Jackson Biography. Retrieved November 6, 2022, from <https://www.nasa.gov/content/mary-w-jackson-biography/>

Hero - Definition, Meaning & Synonyms. (n.d.). In Vocabulary.com. Retrieved November 6, 2022, from <https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/hero>