

# Katherine Johnson

## Human Computer at NASA



By NASA; restored by Adam Cuerden - <http://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/thumbnails/image/1966-l-06717.jpeg>, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=47431407>

Even from the time she was a young girl, Katherine Johnson demonstrated mathematical talent. She eventually got a job working as a human computer at NACA, which turned into NASA. Over a period of three decades, she had a direct impact on important NASA missions. More recently she has entered the spotlight as one of the “stars” of the book and movie *Hidden Figures*. In June 2018 it was announced that Katherine Johnson will be honored at her alma mater, West Virginia State University, with a bronze statue and a scholarship in her name. Plans are to have the dedication on the day before her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

(<https://www.apnews.com/4267eb76ac9541428e20c0368c3483d9/NASA-mathematician-Katherine-Johnson-being-> )

### Required Reading and Viewing

- **Katherine Johnson Biography**, <https://www.nasa.gov/content/katherine-johnson-biography>
- **Katherine Johnson: The Girl Who Loved to Count**, <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/katherine-johnson-the-girl-who-loved-to-count> (be sure to watch the video at the top of the page, as well as reading the article)
- **Hidden Figures | Featurette: Achieving The Impossible**, <https://youtu.be/XiwBpkyjrmQ>
- **Interview with Katherine Johnson**, <https://youtu.be/r8gJqKyIGhE>

## Optional Viewing and Reading

- **Hidden Figures Book Review by Jenna Carpenter**, VOL. 48, NO. 1, JANUARY 2017  
THE COLLEGE MATHEMATICS JOURNAL
- *Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race*, by Margot Lee Shetterly, about African American women mathematicians at NASA, 978-0062363602