

# KATHERINE JOHNSON



Biography of: Include an illustration:

**BIO SNAPSHOT**  
List several facts about this person:

**CONTRIBUTIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS**  
List several contributions and achievements of this person:

**QUOTES**  
Choose one quote said by this person and write it below:

**LNK**  **tivity**  
Interactive Learning Guides

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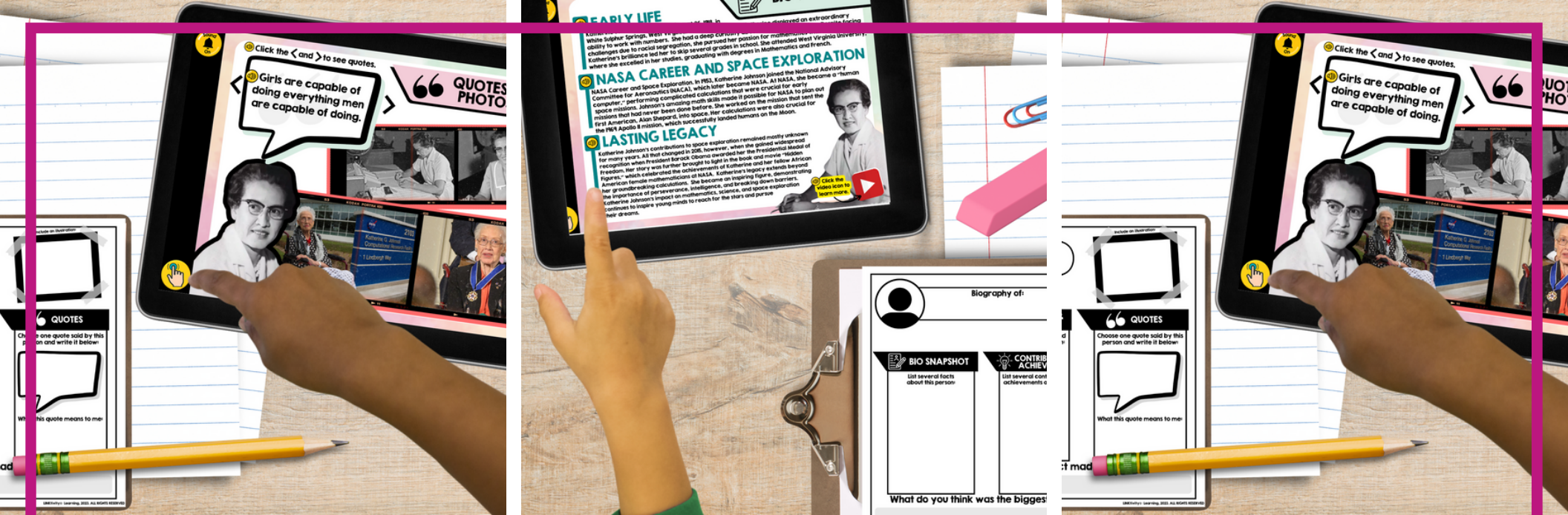
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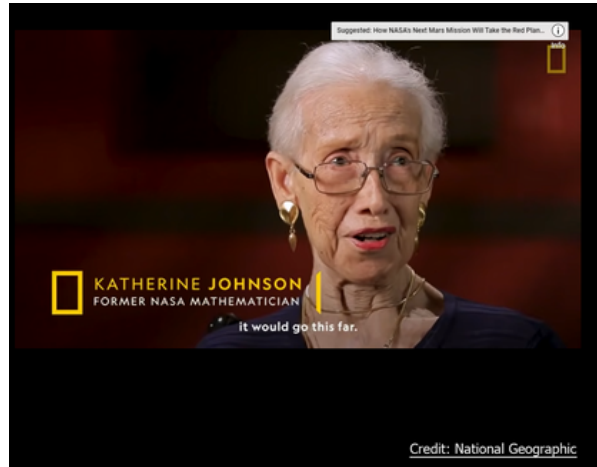


Katherine Johnson was a brilliant mathematician and NASA scientist who played a crucial role in the early days of space exploration. Her calculations were instrumental in the success of historic missions, including the trajectory calculations for Alan Shepard, the first American in space, and the Apollo II mission that landed humans on the Moon. Despite facing discrimination, Katherine Johnson's determination and talent earned her numerous accolades, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015. Katherine Johnson's legacy continues to inspire future generations in the pursuit of scientific discovery and equality. In this Mini-Biography LINKtivity on Katherine Johnson, students will learn about Johnson's early life, her accomplishments and contributions to NASA and the space race, and her legacy that continues to inspire generations.





# More Sample Slides



Click the < and > to see quotes.

“ QUOTES & PHOTOS ”

Girls are capable of doing everything men are capable of doing.

Click the < and > to see quotes.

“ QUOTES & PHOTOS ”

Do your best at all times. That's the best you can do.

Click each lightbulb below to learn about this figure's contributions and achievements.

CONTRIBUTIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS

One of Katherine Johnson's most significant accomplishments was her work on the Apollo II mission in 1969, which successfully landed humans on the Moon. Johnson's complicated calculations ensured the spacecraft's accurate path to and from the Moon. Her heroic efforts led to the historic achievement of astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walking on the surface of the moon.

Click the video icon to watch the first moon landing.

Click each lightbulb below to learn about this figure's contributions and achievements.

CONTRIBUTIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Katherine Johnson played an important role in calculating the pathways and orbits for spaceships during early space missions. She was known as a "human computer" because at the time, people had to calculate math problems using pen and paper instead of by using technology. Her complicated calculations were crucial for the success of missions like the first American in space, Alan Shepard's flight in 1961. Her knowledge of math and science continued to be necessary for other missions, including Astronaut John Glenn's historic orbit around Earth.

BIO SNAPSHOT

EARLY LIFE

Katherine Johnson was born on August 26, 1918, in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. From a young age, Katherine displayed an extraordinary ability to work with numbers. She had a deep curiosity about the world around her. Despite facing challenges due to racial segregation, she pursued her passion for mathematics with determination. Katherine's brilliance led her to skip several grades in school. She attended West Virginia University where she excelled in her studies, graduating with degrees in Mathematics and French.

NASA CAREER AND SPACE EXPLORATION

NASA Career and Space Exploration. In 1953, Katherine Johnson joined the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), which later became NASA. At NASA, she became a "human computer," performing complicated calculations that were crucial for early space missions. Johnson's amazing math skills made it possible for NASA to plan out missions that had never been done before. She worked on the mission that sent the first American, Alan Shepard, into space. Her calculations were also crucial for the 1969 Apollo II mission, which successfully landed humans on the Moon.

LASTING LEGACY

Katherine Johnson's contributions to space exploration remained mostly unknown for many years. All that changed in 2015, however, when she gained widespread recognition when President Barack Obama awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Her story was further brought to light in the book and movie "Hidden Figures," which celebrated the achievements of Katherine and her fellow African American female mathematicians at NASA. Katherine's legacy extends beyond her groundbreaking calculations. She became an inspiring figure, demonstrating the importance of perseverance, intelligence, and breaking down barriers. Katherine Johnson's impact on mathematics, science, and space exploration continues to inspire young minds to reach for the stars and pursue their dreams.

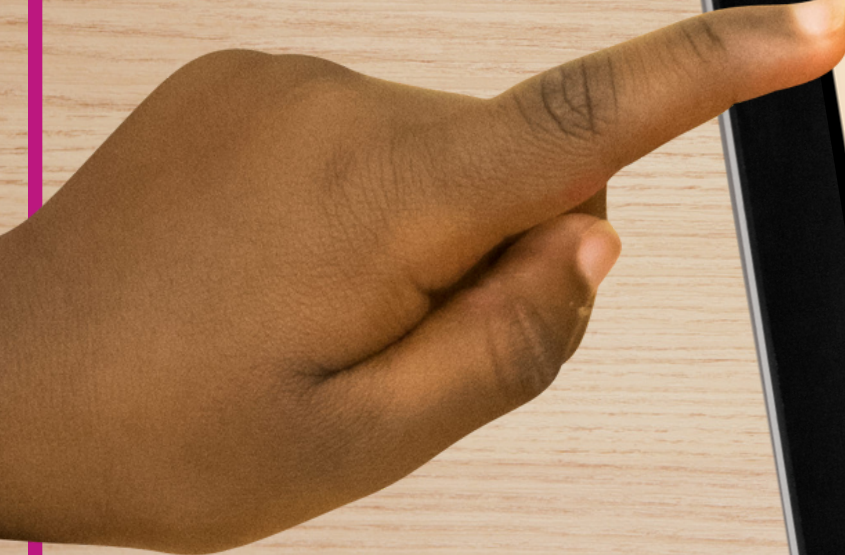
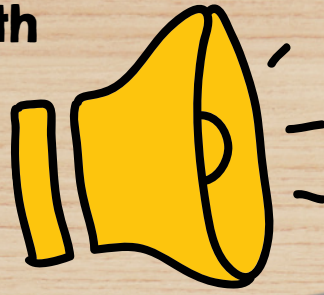
Click the video icon to learn more.





This LINKtivity is provided with

# AUDIO SUPPORT



Perfect for English language learners or students who could use a little extra support!

## BIO SNAPSHOT

### EARLY LIFE

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Click the video icon to learn more.





# Student & Teacher Resources

## Recording Sheet for LINKtivity

### Lesson Plan

#### LESSON

#### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

What is a biography?  
Who is (specific person) and what makes him/her unique?



Note: This lesson plan can be used with any mini-biography LINKtivity.

#### Standards Covered

CCRA.R.10

#### Materials Needed

Biography LINKtivity®  
KWL student sheet  
Biography student sheet (optional)  
Chart paper/markers OR SMARTboard/Whiteboard

#### Teacher Preparation

Preview the mini-biography(ies) that you have selected for your students. Plan for how you will share the LINKtivity with students (ex. assign link in Google Classroom, prepare QR codes, etc). Prepare a KWL chart on chart paper or SMARTboard/whiteboard. Print the KWL and biography student sheets.

#### Lesson Introduction (5-10 min.)

- Introduce the essential questions.
- Introduce the person(s) your students will be exploring and provide each student with a **KWL student sheet**.
- **ASK:** What do you know about this person? What do you want to know about this person?
- Have students complete the first two columns of the chart. Note: If your whole class is exploring the same person, you can complete this chart together on a SMARTboard/whiteboard. If each student is completing a different person, have them complete a KWL for their specific person.

#### Lesson Activity (20 mins)


Have students complete a **Biography LINKtivity**, either one assigned to them or of their own selection. While navigating the LINKtivity, students have the option to complete the **biography student sheet**.


#### Optional Extension Activities

- Take virtual field trips to museums, historical sites, or places related to the person's life using a tool like Google Earth.
- Have students record a podcast episode about their person.
- Host a wax museum event where students dress up and take on the persona of their chosen individual to educate others.

#### Lesson Conclusion (2-5 min.)


Review essential questions and have students share their responses in light of what they have learned. Have students complete the final column of their KWL chart (what I learned).

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What this quote means to me:

What do you think was the biggest impact made by this person?

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Also available in Google Slides!

