

Important African Americans

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Nat King Cole

by ReadWorks



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Nat King Cole playing the piano

Have you ever heard jazz music before? Jazz music can be made with instruments. It can have fast or slow beats. Sometimes there is singing in jazz.

Nat King Cole made jazz music. He made jazz music by playing a piano. He also sang. He had a soft, smooth voice. He sang songs like "Nature Boy."

Nat King Cole was not just a musician. He was also an actor. He even had his own TV show. Different people would sing and play music on the show.



Library of Congress

Nat King Cole making music with other musicians

Katherine G. Johnson

by ReadWorks



NASA

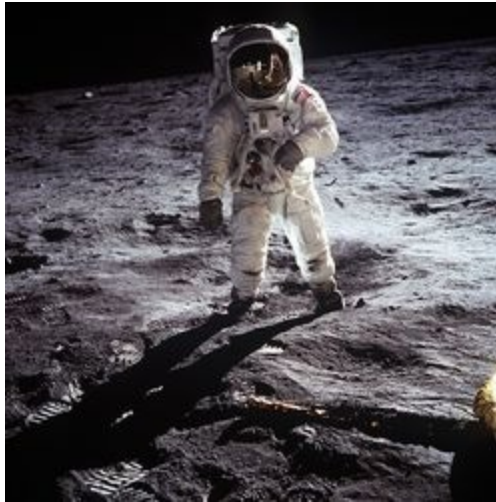
Katherine G. Johnson

Katherine G. Johnson was a very smart little girl. She was very good at math. She could add numbers. She could subtract numbers. She knew a lot about numbers!

When she grew up, she got a very special job. This job was to do math that would help scientists learn about the world.

Katherine's job was very important. She used math to help send people into space. This helped scientists learn more about space. Katherine's math also helped people go to the moon! This helped scientists learn more about the moon.

Maybe one day you can use math to help us learn more about the world, too!



Katherine's math helped people go to the moon!

Martin's Dream

by ReadWorks



All kinds of people came together in Washington, D.C.

In the photo here, you will see many people! They look very small. They were in a city called Washington, D.C. There were old people. There were young people. There were black people. There were white people. All kinds of people had come together.

They had come together because they wanted people to be treated fairly. A lot of people had not been treated fairly. Black people could

not do some of the things that white people could do. They could not go to some of the places white people went to. This was not right.

A famous man named Martin Luther King Jr. spoke to the people that came together. He told them about a dream he had. His dream was that people would be treated the same no matter what color they were. He wanted everyone to be free. People loved what Martin said. His words are still remembered today.



National Archives and Records Administration

Martin Luther King Jr. speaking to the people

A Writer Named Zora

by ReadWorks



Library of Congress

Zora Neale Hurston

Zora Neale Hurston was an African American writer. She wrote short stories. She also wrote longer stories called novels.

Many people have read her book called *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. The book is about a black woman. A lot of the stories Zora wrote were about black people. Zora liked to learn about black people around the world. She went to different places to see how

they lived. She listened to the stories they told. Learning about different people helped her come up with ideas for stories.

Today, many people read Zora's stories. They think she is a great writer.



Jamaica is one of the places Zora visited.

A Brave Woman and Pilot

by ReadWorks



Bessie Coleman standing on the wheel of a plane.

Look at the image. You will see a plane. This plane was made a long time ago. You will also see a pilot. A pilot is a person that flies a plane. The pilot in this image was a woman named Bessie Coleman.

Bessie was a black woman. It was very hard for black women to become pilots when she was alive. Pilot schools in the United States didn't want to teach women and black people to fly.

But that didn't stop Bessie. She went to another country to become a pilot. She went to a school to learn to fly planes. She became the first African-American woman who could fly a plane. Bessie learned

to do cool tricks while flying her plane!

Bessie was brave. She didn't let anything stop her from becoming who she wanted to be.



National Air and Space Museum

Bessie Coleman

Matthew Henson Goes to the Arctic

by ReadWorks



Matthew Henson

The man in this photo was named Matthew Henson. Matthew was an explorer. An explorer is someone who goes to a place many people have not been to. Explorers learn more about these places. They tell others what they have learned.

You can see Matthew is wearing a big coat in the photo. Where was he? If you think he was in a cold place, you're right! Matthew went

to a place called the Arctic. He was the first African American to go to the Arctic. He went with other explorers. They were the first people to visit the Arctic.

The Arctic is a very cold place. It has a lot of snow. Animals like polar bears live there. Would you want to go there?



Polar bears live in the Arctic.