



# KATHERINE JOHNSON

By Alice Arrowsmith Y5

# Who was Katherine Johnson??

- Katherine was born on 26<sup>th</sup> of August 1918 in White Sulphur springs in the state of west Virginia, America.

# Katherine's early life

- Katherine was a talented young girl who started high school at ten years old (three years earlier than normal) and she graduated college (university) at eighteen. She achieved great things at such a young age, and at a time when few Black people had a opportunity to gain a high school diploma.

# Where she worked

- Katherine started working at the Langley Research Centre in 1953, which we all know now as NASA. Here Katherine was hired to work out complicated maths mathematical problems. Katherine was amazing at this, and because she was that good at it, two weeks later, she was promoted to work on a brand new project where she discovered how other aircrafts and planes move in the sky.
- Fun fact when America started competing with the USSR at Space Travel, Katherine showed how much she new and what she could accomplish.

# Then....

In 1961 an astronaut called Alan Shepard became the first American in space, but it was Katherine's calculations that got him there. Katherine worked out the trajectory he would need to follow in order to get to space and arrive home safely. Katherine continued to calculate the maths behind space missions, even after NASA started using electronic computers. Katherine was no ordinary maths genius so she wasn't done shining just yet. Eight years later, in 1969, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first men to walk on the moon, but Katherine was the woman who got them there and back.

# When Katherine died

- Katherine died on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 2020 ☹️☹️

◦ Thank you for watching

