



Hidden Figures: First Reactions

Take a few minutes to record your first response to the film *Hidden Figures* in the chart below. Try to make your answers specific.

<p>LIKES: Name three things that you really enjoyed about the film.</p>	<p>DISLIKES: Name three things that disturbed or angered you as you watched the film.</p>
<p>PUZZLES: What are some questions that you have after watching the film? What more would you like to know?</p>	<p>PATTERNS: What images or themes seem to be repeated in the film? What do you think the filmmaker is trying to achieve by these repetitions?</p>

Hidden Figures: Thinking Deeper

A STEM career is one involving science, technology, engineering, or mathematics. The range of STEM careers is vast; designing video games, doing physiotherapy for athletes, programming a satellite, or inventing life-saving medical equipment are just a few examples. STEM careers can be fascinating and will be in high demand in the future. With this in mind, think about the following questions:

1. Katherine G. Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson were extraordinarily talented mathematicians. What other personal qualities did they have that allowed them to achieve so much? Are these qualities still important for young people who are preparing for a STEM career?
2. What obstacles did these “human computers” have to face at work and in the society of their time? How did they overcome them? Are there similar obstacles that you might face today? If so, what is the best way to deal with such problems?
3. Why was NASA so willing to hire these women for jobs that had been filled almost exclusively by men? How did NASA benefit from this decision? How did the presence of the women change the environment at NASA?
4. Who are the women of NASA today? Read about some of the women currently working for NASA at <https://women.nasa.gov/>. How did they become interested in working for the space agency? What education and experience did they need to qualify for their jobs?
5. What kinds of exploration and research is NASA working on right now? Would you be interested in working for NASA? Why, or why not? What other kinds of STEM careers might interest you?
6. On a webpage about Katherine Johnson in STEM (<https://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/a-lifetime-of-stem.html>), NASA suggests some lessons to learn from her life:
 - Love learning.
 - Follow your passion.
 - Accept the help you’re given, and help others when you can.
 - Follow new leads and don’t give up. Keep trying.
 - Go beyond the task at hand; ask questions; be inquisitive. Let yourself be heard.
 - Do what you love, and love what you do.
 - You are as good as anyone in this town, but you are no better than any of them.

What are three ways that you could apply these lessons to your own life right now?