

Social studies

Grade 4

Women's History Month worksheet: women scientists and astronauts

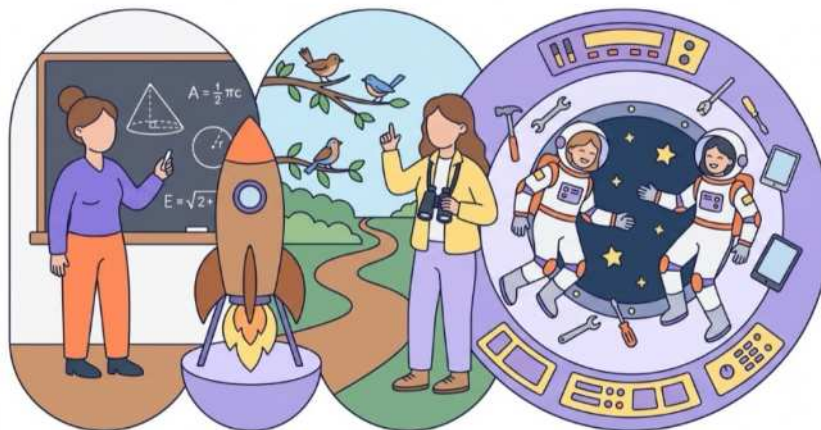
Read about four American women in science and put their achievements on a timeline.



I can use a timeline to explain when important events happened.



1 Women who changed science



Katherine Johnson was a brilliant mathematician. In 1953 she began working at the agency that later became NASA. She calculated the paths spacecraft would fly, and astronauts trusted her math with their lives.

Rachel Carson was a biologist who loved the ocean and wildlife. In 1962 she published a book called *Silent Spring*. It warned that some chemicals sprayed on crops were harming birds and other animals. Her book helped start the modern environmental movement.

Sally Ride was a physicist. In 1983 she became the first American woman to travel into space.

Mae Jemison was a doctor and engineer. In 1992 she became the first Black woman to travel into space. She did science experiments while orbiting Earth.

2



17

Timeline

Write 1 to 4 in the boxes, from earliest to latest.

☐

Sally Ride travels into space.

☐

Katherine Johnson begins working on flight paths.

☐

Mae Jemison travels into space.

☐

Rachel Carson publishes Silent Spring.

3

**Who did what?**

Draw a line from each scientist to her job.

☐

Katherine Johnson



● A. physicist

☐

Rachel Carson



● B. doctor and engineer

☐

Sally Ride



● C. mathematician

☐

Mae Jemison



● D. biologist

4

**Timeline math**

Circle the right answer.

1. How many years after Sally Ride did Mae Jemison go to space?

A 9

B 19

C 29

2. How many years passed between 1953 and 1962?

A 8

B 9

C 11

3. What did Rachel Carson's book warn about?

☐ A Chemicals harming birds and animals

☐ B Rockets that were too slow

☐ C Too much snow

5 True or false

Circle the right answer. Look in the text.

1. Katherine Johnson was a mathematician.

True

False

2. Rachel Carson published Silent Spring in 1962.

True

False

3. Sally Ride was the first American woman in space.

True

False

4. Mae Jemison went to space before Sally Ride.

True

False

5. Rachel Carson's book was about rockets.

True

False

6. Mae Jemison did science experiments while orbiting Earth.

True

False

6 How long ago?

Subtract to find how many years before 2026 each event happened.

Scientist	Year	Years before 2026
Katherine Johnson	1953	
Rachel Carson	1962	
Sally Ride	1983	
Mae Jemison	1992	

7 Timeline math

Write the answer.

1. $1983 - 1953 =$ _____

2. $1992 - 1962 =$ _____

3. From 1953 to 1992 is _____ years.
4. Round 1953 to the nearest ten: _____
5. Round 1983 to the nearest ten: _____
6. Round 1962 to the nearest hundred: _____

8 Science words

Circle the best answer.

1. A biologist studies...

A living things

B old coins

C weather maps

2. "Orbiting Earth" means...

A digging under Earth

B traveling around Earth

C looking at Earth in a book

3. A mathematician works mostly with...

A numbers and calculations

B paint and brushes

C plants and seeds

4. The environmental movement works to...

A protect nature

B build more rockets

C make more chemicals

9 Your choice

Which scientist would you most like to meet? Explain why using two details from the text.

How did it go?



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Answer key

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Read about four American women in science and put their achievements on a timeline.



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1 Women who changed science



Katherine Johnson was a brilliant mathematician. In 1953 she began working at the agency that later became NASA. She calculated the paths spacecraft would fly, and astronauts trusted her math with their lives.

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Mae Jemison was a doctor and engineer. In 1992 she became the first Black woman to travel into space. She did science experiments while orbiting Earth.

2



17

Timeline

Write 1 to 4 in the boxes, from earliest to latest.

3

Sally Ride travels into space.

1

Katherine Johnson begins working on flight paths.

4

Mae Jemison travels into space.

2

Rachel Carson publishes Silent Spring.

3

**Who did what?**

Draw a line from each scientist to her job.

C

Katherine Johnson



D

Rachel Carson



A

Sally Ride



B

Mae Jemison



● A. physicist

● B. doctor and engineer

● C. mathematician

● D. biologist

4

**Timeline math**

Circle the right answer.

1. How many years after Sally Ride did Mae Jemison go to space?

A 9

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C 29

2. How many years passed between 1953 and 1962?

A 8

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3. What did Rachel Carson's book warn about?

A Chemicals harming birds and animals

B Rockets that were too slow

C Too much snow

5 **True or false**

Circle the right answer. Look in the text.

1. Katherine Johnson was a mathematician.

True

False

2. Rachel Carson published Silent Spring in 1962.

True

False

3. Sally Ride was the first American woman in space.

True

False

4. Mae Jemison went to space before Sally Ride.

True

False

5. Rachel Carson's book was about rockets.

True

False

6. Mae Jemison did science experiments while orbiting Earth.

True

False

6 **How long ago?**

Subtract to find how many years before 2026 each event happened.

Scientist	Year	Years before 2026
Katherine Johnson	1953	73
Rachel Carson	1962	64
Sally Ride	1983	43
Mae Jemison	1992	34

7 **Timeline math**

Write the answer.

1. $1983 - 1953 =$ 30

2. $1992 - 1962 =$ 30

3. From 1953 to 1992 is 39 years.
4. Round 1953 to the nearest ten: 1950
5. Round 1983 to the nearest ten: 1980
6. Round 1962 to the nearest hundred: 2000

8 Science words

Circle the best answer.

1. A biologist studies...

☒ A living things

☐ B old coins

☐ C weather maps

2. "Orbiting Earth" means...

☐ A digging under Earth

☒ B traveling around Earth

☐ C looking at Earth in a book

3. A mathematician works mostly with...

☒ A numbers and calculations

☐ B paint and brushes

☐ C plants and seeds

4. The environmental movement works to...

☒ A protect nature

☐ B build more rockets

☐ C make more chemicals

9 Your choice

Which scientist would you most like to meet? Explain why using two details from the text.

Answers vary. Example: Katherine Johnson, because she calculated the paths of spacecraft and astronauts trusted her math with their lives.

How did it go?



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