

hidden figures questions and answers for students

Hidden Figures Questions and Answers for Students: Uncovering Untold Stories of STEM Pioneers

Introduction:

Have you ever felt unseen, unheard, or underestimated? Imagine facing those challenges while breaking barriers in a field dominated by men – and doing so in a time of racial and gender segregation. That's the incredible story of the women featured in Hidden Figures, the inspiring tale of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson. This post delves into the captivating lives of these mathematical geniuses, offering a wealth of questions and answers perfectly suited for students of all ages. We'll explore their contributions to NASA's space program, examine the societal barriers they overcame, and discuss the lasting legacy of their achievements. Get ready to delve into the fascinating world of Hidden Figures and learn about the brilliance and resilience that propelled these women to greatness.

Chapter 1: Katherine Johnson: The Human Computer Who Calculated the Impossible

Who was Katherine Johnson? Katherine Johnson was a brilliant mathematician who calculated trajectories for the Mercury and Apollo missions. Her precise calculations were crucial to the success of America's early space program.

What were some of Katherine Johnson's most significant contributions to NASA? Her work on the Mercury and Apollo programs, notably calculating the trajectory for Alan Shepard's Freedom 7 mission and John Glenn's orbital flight, was paramount. Her ability to perform complex calculations manually, before the advent of sophisticated computers, showcased her incredible talent and accuracy. She was instrumental in developing procedures and equations crucial for spacecraft navigation.

What challenges did Katherine Johnson face as an African American woman working at NASA? Johnson faced systemic racism and sexism. She was segregated from her white colleagues, worked in a separate facility, and had to fight for recognition and opportunities. Her story powerfully demonstrates the challenges faced by minorities in the scientific fields during the mid-20th century.

What is Katherine Johnson's legacy? Johnson's legacy extends far beyond her mathematical contributions. She became a symbol of perseverance and inspiration, proving that talent and dedication can overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles. She inspired generations of women and minorities to pursue STEM careers. Her story continues to serve as a reminder of the importance of diversity and inclusion in science and technology.

Chapter 2: Dorothy Vaughan: The Fortran Programmer Who Mastered the Machine

Who was Dorothy Vaughan? Dorothy Vaughan was a supremely talented mathematician and

programmer who played a critical role in the transition from human computation to electronic computers at NASA. She recognized the rising importance of computer programming early on and skillfully taught herself and her colleagues Fortran, a crucial programming language at the time.

What was Dorothy Vaughan's role at NASA? Vaughan initially led a team of "human computers" performing complex calculations. As electronic computers gained prominence, she proactively shifted her expertise to programming, becoming an invaluable asset to NASA's computational capabilities. This foresight allowed NASA to seamlessly integrate computer technology into its operations.

What obstacles did Dorothy Vaughan encounter? Like Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan faced significant racial and gender discrimination. She had to prove her competence repeatedly in a male-dominated and racially segregated workplace. She persistently advocated for the advancement of her team and herself, embodying resilience and leadership.

What is Dorothy Vaughan's legacy? Dorothy Vaughan's legacy is one of pioneering leadership and adaptability in the face of adversity. Her ability to master new technologies and mentor her team positioned her as a role model for women in computer science and leadership, highlighting the critical role of women in the evolution of technology.

Chapter 3: Mary Jackson: The First Black Female Engineer at NASA

Who was Mary Jackson? Mary Jackson was a pioneering African American aerospace engineer at NASA, the first Black female engineer at the agency. She broke barriers and paved the way for future generations of minority engineers.

What were Mary Jackson's contributions to NASA? Jackson worked on wind tunnel research, making critical contributions to NASA's understanding of aerodynamics. Her technical skills and dedication were essential in improving aircraft and spacecraft design.

What challenges did Mary Jackson overcome? Mary Jackson faced immense challenges due to both racism and sexism. She had to fight for the educational opportunities needed to advance her career, including seeking legal action to attend a segregated graduate school.

What is Mary Jackson's legacy? Mary Jackson's unwavering determination, in spite of the significant systemic hurdles she overcame, exemplifies the importance of perseverance. Her legacy serves as a powerful reminder of the enduring impact of challenging societal norms and pursuing educational and professional goals, no matter the adversity.

Chapter 4: The Broader Impact of Hidden Figures

Why is the story of Hidden Figures important? The story of Hidden Figures is critical because it sheds light on the often-overlooked contributions of women and minorities to science and technology. It challenges conventional narratives and highlights the systemic inequalities that existed and continue to exist in these fields.

How can we ensure that the contributions of women and minorities in STEM are recognized and celebrated? We need to actively promote diverse representation in STEM fields through education, mentorship programs, and affirmative action policies. Celebrating the achievements of individuals like Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson is a crucial step toward this goal. We must

also prioritize inclusive curricula that showcase the contributions of diverse individuals throughout history.

What lessons can students learn from the story of Hidden Figures? Students can learn the importance of perseverance, the power of education, and the significance of challenging discrimination and inequality. The story underscores the value of collaboration, critical thinking, and the pursuit of excellence, even in the face of adversity.

Conclusion:

The stories of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson are not just historical accounts; they are powerful calls to action. Hidden Figures inspires us to celebrate the achievements of those often overlooked and to strive for a more equitable and inclusive future. Their legacies encourage us to pursue our passions, overcome obstacles, and make our own unique contributions to the world. The unwavering determination and brilliant minds of these women deserve to be celebrated and remembered by all, especially by the future generation of scientists and engineers.

Book Outline: "Hidden Figures: A Student's Guide to Untold Stories of STEM Pioneers"

Introduction: Overview of the Hidden Figures story and its importance.

Chapter 1: Katherine Johnson – A Life in Numbers: Focuses on her life, contributions, challenges, and legacy.

Chapter 2: Dorothy Vaughan – The Power of Programming: Explores her career, leadership, and mastery of emerging technologies.

Chapter 3: Mary Jackson – Breaking Barriers in Aerospace: Details her achievements, struggles, and impact on the field of engineering.

Chapter 4: The Legacy of Hidden Figures: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in STEM: Discusses the broader implications of their stories and how to build a more inclusive future.

Conclusion: A summary of key takeaways and a call to action.

(Detailed explanations of each chapter are provided above in the main article body.)

FAQs:

1. What were the main contributions of Katherine Johnson to NASA? She calculated trajectories for the Mercury and Apollo missions, crucial for successful spaceflights.
1. How did Dorothy Vaughan contribute to the transition from human to electronic computing at NASA? She recognized the importance of Fortran programming and trained her team, ensuring a smooth transition.

1. What was Mary Jackson's significant achievement at NASA? She became the first Black female engineer at NASA, breaking racial and gender barriers.
1. What challenges did these women face due to their race and gender? They faced segregation, discrimination, and limited opportunities, yet persevered to achieve greatness.
1. What impact did Hidden Figures have on society? It brought awareness to the significant contributions of women and minorities in STEM, inspiring many.
1. How can we learn from the experiences of these women? We can learn about perseverance, resilience, and the importance of fighting for equality.
1. What are some careers inspired by the stories in Hidden Figures? Careers in math, engineering, computer science, aerospace engineering, and related fields are all inspired by their accomplishments.
1. Are there any educational resources available for students interested in learning more about Hidden Figures? Yes, numerous books, films, documentaries, and websites provide detailed information.
1. What are some activities or projects students can do to learn more about their contributions? Students can research their lives, write essays, create presentations, or even design projects related to their work in mathematics and engineering.

Related Articles:

1. The untold stories of women in STEM: Explores further examples of women making crucial contributions to science and technology.
2. Breaking Barriers: African American Pioneers in STEM: Focuses on other prominent African Americans who overcame adversity in STEM fields.

3. The History of NASA: A Timeline of Achievements: Provides a broader context for the contributions of Hidden Figures.
4. The Role of Women in the Space Race: Highlights the broader contributions of women during the space race era.
5. Fortran Programming: A Historical Overview: Details the history and significance of Fortran programming.
6. Careers in Aerospace Engineering: A Career Guide: Provides information on career opportunities inspired by the achievements of Mary Jackson.
7. The Importance of Diversity in STEM: Discusses the value of diversity in ensuring innovation and progress in STEM.
8. STEM Education for Girls: Promoting Inclusion: Provides resources and strategies for encouraging girls to pursue STEM fields.
9. Overcoming Challenges: Resilience in the Face of Adversity: Explores the themes of resilience and perseverance showcased in the Hidden Figures story.

hidden figures questions and answers for students: Hidden Figures Margot Lee Shetterly, 2018-05-08 Based on the New York Times bestselling book and the Academy Award-nominated movie, author Margot Lee Shetterly and Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Award winner Laura Freeman bring the incredibly inspiring true story of four black women who helped NASA launch men into space to picture book readers! Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden were good at math...really good. They participated in some of NASA's greatest successes, like providing the calculations for America's first journeys into space. And they did so during a time when being black and a woman limited what they could do. But they worked hard. They persisted. And they used their genius minds to change the world. In this beautifully illustrated picture book edition, we explore the story of four female African American mathematicians at NASA, known as colored computers, and how they overcame gender and racial barriers to succeed in a highly challenging STEM-based career. Finally, the extraordinary lives of four African American women who helped NASA put the first men in space is available for picture book readers, proclaims Brightly in their article 18 Must-Read Picture Books of 2018. Will inspire girls and boys alike to love math, believe in themselves, and reach for the stars.

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age, touching on the civil rights era, the Space Race, the Cold War, and the women's rights movement, *Hidden Figures* interweaves a rich history of mankind's greatest adventure with the intimate stories of five courageous women whose work forever changed the world.

hidden figures questions and answers for students: *The Story Grid* Shawn Coyne, 2015-05-02 WHAT IS THE STORY GRID? The Story Grid is a tool developed by editor Shawn Coyne to analyze stories and provide helpful editorial comments. It's like a CT Scan that takes a photo of the global story and tells the editor or writer what is working, what is not, and what must be done to make what works better and fix what's not. The Story Grid breaks down the component parts of stories to identify the problems. And finding the problems in a story is almost as difficult as the writing of the story itself (maybe even more difficult). The Story Grid is a tool with many applications: 1. It will tell a writer if a Story ?works? or ?doesn't work. 2. It pinpoints story problems but does not emotionally abuse the writer, revealing exactly where a Story (not the person creating the Story'the Story) has failed. 3. It will tell the writer the specific work necessary to fix that Story's problems. 4. It is a tool to re-envision and resuscitate a seemingly irredeemable pile of paper stuck in an attic drawer. 5. It is a tool that can inspire an original creation.

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hidden figures questions and answers for students: *Reaching for the Moon* Katherine Johnson, 2020-05-05 "This rich volume is a national treasure." —Kirkus Reviews (starred review) "Captivating, informative, and inspiring...Easy to follow and hard to put down." —School Library Journal (starred review) The inspiring autobiography of NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson, who helped launch Apollo 11. As a young girl, Katherine Johnson showed an exceptional aptitude for math. In school she quickly skipped ahead several grades and was soon studying complex equations with the support of a professor who saw great promise in her. But ability and opportunity did not always go hand in hand. As an African American and a girl growing up in an era of brutal racism and sexism, Katherine faced daily challenges. Still, she lived her life with her father's words in mind: "You are no better than anyone else, and nobody else is better than you." In the early 1950s, Katherine was thrilled to join the organization that would become NASA. She worked on many of NASA's biggest projects including the Apollo 11 mission that landed the first men on the moon. Katherine Johnson's story was made famous in the bestselling book and Oscar-nominated film *Hidden Figures*. Now in *Reaching for the Moon* she tells her own story for the first time, in a lively autobiography that will inspire young readers everywhere.

hidden figures questions and answers for students: *All the Light We Cannot See* Anthony Doerr, 2014-05-06 *NOW A NETFLIX LIMITED SERIES—from producer and director Shawn Levy (*Stranger Things*) starring Mark Ruffalo, Hugh Laurie, and newcomer Aria Mia Loberti* Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award finalist, the beloved instant New York Times bestseller and New York Times Book Review Top 10 Book about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. Marie-Laure lives with her father in Paris near the Museum of Natural History where he works as the master of its thousands of locks. When she is six, Marie-Laure goes blind and her father builds a perfect miniature of their neighborhood so she can memorize it by touch and navigate her way home. When

she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris, and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure's reclusive great uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum's most valuable and dangerous jewel. In a mining town in Germany, the orphan Werner grows up with his younger sister, enchanted by a crude radio they find. Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing these crucial new instruments, a talent that wins him a place at a brutal academy for Hitler Youth, then a special assignment to track the Resistance. More and more aware of the human cost of his intelligence, Werner travels through the heart of the war and, finally, into Saint-Malo, where his story and Marie-Laure's converge. Doerr's "stunning sense of physical detail and gorgeous metaphors" (San Francisco Chronicle) are dazzling. Deftly interweaving the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner, he illuminates the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another. Ten years in the writing, *All the Light We Cannot See* is a magnificent, deeply moving novel from a writer "whose sentences never fail to thrill" (Los Angeles Times).

hidden figures questions and answers for students: My Remarkable Journey Katherine Johnson, Joylette Hylick, Katherine Moore, 2021-05-25 The remarkable woman at heart of the smash New York Times bestseller and Oscar-winning film *Hidden Figures* tells the full story of her life, including what it took to work at NASA, help land the first man on the moon, and live through a century of turmoil and change. In 2015, at the age of 97, Katherine Johnson became a global celebrity. President Barack Obama awarded her the prestigious Presidential Medal of Freedom—the nation's highest civilian honor—for her pioneering work as a mathematician on NASA's first flights into space. Her contributions to America's space program were celebrated in a blockbuster and Academy-award nominated movie. In this memoir, Katherine shares her personal journey from child prodigy in the Allegheny Mountains of West Virginia to NASA human computer. In her life after retirement, she served as a beacon of light for her family and community alike. Her story is centered around the basic tenets of her life—no one is better than you, education is paramount, and asking questions can break barriers. The memoir captures the many facets of this unique woman: the curious "daddy's girl," pioneering professional, and sage elder. This multidimensional portrait is also the record of a century of racial history that reveals the influential role educators at segregated schools and Historically Black Colleges and Universities played in nurturing the dreams of trailblazers like Katherine. The author pays homage to her mentor—the African American professor who inspired her to become a research mathematician despite having his own dream crushed by racism. Infused with the uplifting wisdom of a woman who handled great fame with genuine humility and great tragedy with enduring hope, *My Remarkable Journey* ultimately brings into focus a determined woman who navigated tough racial terrain with soft-spoken grace—and the unrelenting grit required to make history and inspire future generations.

hidden figures questions and answers for students: Verity Colleen Hoover, 2021-10-05 Whose truth is the lie? Stay up all night reading the sensational psychological thriller that has readers obsessed, from the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Too Late* and *It Ends With Us*. #1 New York Times Bestseller · USA Today Bestseller · Globe and Mail Bestseller · Publishers Weekly Bestseller Lowen Ashleigh is a struggling writer on the brink of financial ruin when she accepts the job offer of a lifetime. Jeremy Crawford, husband of bestselling author Verity Crawford, has hired Lowen to complete the remaining books in a successful series his injured wife is unable to finish. Lowen arrives at the Crawford home, ready to sort through years of Verity's notes and outlines, hoping to find enough material to get her started. What Lowen doesn't expect to uncover in the chaotic office is an unfinished autobiography Verity never intended for anyone to read. Page after page of bone-chilling admissions, including Verity's recollection of the night her family was forever altered. Lowen decides to keep the manuscript hidden from Jeremy, knowing its contents could devastate the already grieving father. But as Lowen's feelings for Jeremy begin to intensify, she recognizes all the ways she could benefit if he were to read his wife's words. After all, no matter how devoted Jeremy is to his injured wife, a truth this horrifying would make it impossible for him to continue loving her.

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accompanied their famous fathers to the Yalta Conference in February 1945, and of the conference's fateful reverberations in the waning days of World War II.

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hidden figures questions and answers for students: *Pies from Nowhere: How Georgia Gilmore Sustained the Montgomery Bus Boycott* Dee Romito, 2018-11-06 This stunning picture book looks into the life of Georgia Gilmore, a hidden figure of history who played a critical role in the civil rights movement and used her passion for baking to help the Montgomery Bus Boycott achieve its goal. Georgia decided to help the best way she knew how. She worked together with a group of women and together they purchased the supplies they needed—bread, lettuce, and chickens. And off they went to cook. The women brought food to the mass meetings that followed at the church. They sold sandwiches. They sold dinners in their neighborhoods. As the boycotters walked and walked, Georgia cooked and cooked. Georgia Gilmore was a cook at the National Lunch Company in Montgomery, Alabama. When the bus boycotts broke out in Montgomery after Rosa Parks was arrested, Georgia knew just what to do. She organized a group of women who cooked and baked to fund-raise for gas and cars to help sustain the boycott. Called the Club from Nowhere, Georgia was the only person who knew who baked and bought the food, and she said the money came from nowhere to anyone who asked. When Martin Luther King Jr. was arrested for his role in the boycott, Georgia testified on his behalf, and her home became a meeting place for civil rights leaders. This picture book highlights a hidden figure of the civil rights movement who fueled the bus boycotts and demonstrated that one person can make a real change in her community and beyond. It also includes one of her delicious recipes for kids to try with the help of their parents!

hidden figures questions and answers for students: **HIDDEN FIGURES** NARAYAN CHANGDER, 2024-05-27 THE HIDDEN FIGURES MCQ (MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS) SERVES AS A VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR INDIVIDUALS AIMING TO DEEPEN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF VARIOUS COMPETITIVE EXAMS, CLASS TESTS, QUIZ COMPETITIONS, AND SIMILAR ASSESSMENTS. WITH ITS EXTENSIVE COLLECTION OF MCQS, THIS BOOK EMPOWERS YOU TO ASSESS YOUR GRASP OF THE SUBJECT MATTER AND YOUR PROFICIENCY LEVEL. BY ENGAGING WITH THESE MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS, YOU CAN IMPROVE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE SUBJECT, IDENTIFY AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT, AND LAY A SOLID FOUNDATION. DIVE INTO THE HIDDEN FIGURES MCQ TO EXPAND YOUR HIDDEN FIGURES KNOWLEDGE AND EXCEL IN QUIZ COMPETITIONS, ACADEMIC STUDIES, OR PROFESSIONAL ENDEAVORS. THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS ARE PROVIDED AT THE END OF EACH PAGE, MAKING IT EASY FOR PARTICIPANTS TO VERIFY THEIR ANSWERS AND PREPARE EFFECTIVELY.

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hidden figures questions and answers for students: The Silent Patient Alex Michaelides, 2019-02-05 ****THE INSTANT #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER**** An unforgettable—and Hollywood-bound—new thriller... A mix of Hitchcockian suspense, Agatha Christie plotting, and Greek tragedy. —Entertainment Weekly *The Silent Patient* is a shocking psychological thriller of a woman's act of violence against her husband—and of the therapist obsessed with uncovering her motive. Alicia Berenson's life is seemingly perfect. A famous painter married to an in-demand

fashion photographer, she lives in a grand house with big windows overlooking a park in one of London's most desirable areas. One evening her husband Gabriel returns home late from a fashion shoot, and Alicia shoots him five times in the face, and then never speaks another word. Alicia's refusal to talk, or give any kind of explanation, turns a domestic tragedy into something far grander, a mystery that captures the public imagination and casts Alicia into notoriety. The price of her art skyrockets, and she, the silent patient, is hidden away from the tabloids and spotlight at the Grove, a secure forensic unit in North London. Theo Faber is a criminal psychotherapist who has waited a long time for the opportunity to work with Alicia. His determination to get her to talk and unravel the mystery of why she shot her husband takes him down a twisting path into his own motivations—a search for the truth that threatens to consume him....

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Daniel T. Willingham, 2009-06-10 Easy-to-apply, scientifically-based approaches for engaging students in the classroom Cognitive scientist Dan Willingham focuses his acclaimed research on the biological and cognitive basis of learning. His book will help teachers improve their practice by explaining how they and their students think and learn. It reveals the importance of story, emotion, memory, context, and routine in building knowledge and creating lasting learning experiences. Nine, easy-to-understand principles with clear applications for the classroom Includes surprising findings, such as that intelligence is malleable, and that you cannot develop thinking skills without facts How an understanding of the brain's workings can help teachers hone their teaching skills Mr. Willingham's answers apply just as well outside the classroom. Corporate trainers, marketers and, not least, parents -anyone who cares about how we learn-should find his book valuable reading. —Wall Street Journal

hidden figures questions and answers for students: Among the Hidden Margaret Peterson Haddix, 2002-06-12 In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke, an illegal third child, has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm in this start to the Shadow Children series from Margaret Peterson Haddix. Luke has never been to school. He's never had a birthday party, or gone to a friend's house for an overnight. In fact, Luke has never had a friend. Luke is one of the shadow children, a third child forbidden by the Population Police. He's lived his entire life in hiding, and now, with a new housing development replacing the woods next to his family's farm, he is no longer even allowed to go outside. Then, one day Luke sees a girl's face in the window of a house where he knows two other children already live. Finally, he's met a shadow child like himself. Jen is willing to risk everything to come out of the shadows—does Luke dare to become involved in her dangerous plan? Can he afford not to?

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transformed rocket design, helped bring about the first American satellites, and made the exploration of the solar system possible. For the first time, *Rise of the Rocket Girls* tells the stories of these women -- known as human computers -- who broke the boundaries of both gender and science. Based on extensive research and interviews with all the living members of the team, *Rise of the Rocket Girls* offers a unique perspective on the role of women in science: both where we've been, and the far reaches of space to which we're heading. If *Hidden Figures* has you itching to learn more about the women who worked in the space program, pick up Nathalia Holt's lively, immensely readable history, *Rise of the Rocket Girls*. -- Entertainment Weekly

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Board of Education decision, when black activists in the South focused their efforts on equalizing accommodations, rather than on the more daunting—and dangerous—task of undoing segregation. After the ruling, momentum for vigorously pursuing equality grew, and black organizations shifted to more direct challenges to the system, including public library sit-ins and lawsuits against library systems. Although local groups often took direction from larger civil rights organizations, the energy, courage, and determination of younger black community members ensured the eventual desegregation of Jim Crow public libraries. The Wiegands examine the library desegregation movement in several southern cities and states, revealing the ways that individual communities negotiated—mostly peacefully, sometimes violently—the integration of local public libraries. This study adds a new chapter to the history of civil rights activism in the mid-twentieth century and celebrates the resolve of community activists as it weaves the account of racial discrimination in public libraries through the national narrative of the civil rights movement.

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during World War II.

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