

Counting on Katherine

How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13



RIF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR EDUCATORS

- Individual students can choose an activity to complete.
- Student pairs or cooperative groups can work together on a choice of their own.
- Educators can assign an activity for an individual, pairs, or groups.

IN MEMORIAM

Katherine Johnson paved the way for many Black women mathematicians. Have your students design memorials for her. Make a model of the design and include on the memorial a plaque that shares some of her accomplishments.

Art, Social Studies, Writing

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME

Astronauts could count on Katherine Johnson because she was a talented mathematician. What are some things that people can count on you for? Have students make a list of their skills and attributes. Then share them as a class, so everyone knows what they can count on each other for.

Social Emotional Learning

MOON WALK YOGA

Have your students lay down on their backs on the floor or sit in their chairs. Ensure there is enough space around them. Have them “walk” in the air, by keeping one leg straight while lifting the other as high as they can. Repeat for the other side. Breathe in lifting and out letting go. This exercise can help balance the left and right sides of the brain.

Movement

ASTRONAUT BIOGRAPHY

Research a NASA astronaut and write a short report. Bring the biographies to life by having students dress up like their astronaut and create a living wax museum.

Social Studies, Theatre, Writing

HOUSTON, WE HAVE A PROBLEM!

This is a famous line from the Apollo 13 mission. Have your students think of another scenario in which someone may say this line. Then have them write a story that incorporates this line.

Writing

EXTRA, EXTRA!

Have your students create a front-page newspaper article about the historic Apollo 13 lunar mission. The page should include a headline, photographs, and one full article.

Social Studies, Technology, Writing

RECYCLED ROCKETS

Let students use recyclable material to come up with their own unique rocket designs. Students should start by creating a blueprint for their rocket. After construction, have them write a brief about the crew and mission.

Art, Writing

NASA TIMELINE

Have students create a timeline of NASA's space missions. The timeline should include dates and descriptions. Students can bring it to life by adding drawings or photos. Based on the timeline, where do your students think NASA will go next?

Art, Social Studies, Writing

MOON MATH

The radius of the Moon is 1,737 kilometers, and the radius of Earth is 6,378 kilometers. About how many Moons could fit inside the Earth? Have your students discuss how they solved this problem.

Math