**MATHEMATICIAN LOOK-A-LIKE**

a project in Mathematics 9

SUBMITTED BY:

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Grade 9-Noteworthiness



**Marjorie Lee Browne**

Marjorie Lee Browne was born to Mary Taylor Lee and Lawrence Johnson Lee, in Memphis, Tennessee, on September 9, 1914. Marjorie was encouraged to study math by her father and step-mother (her mother died when she was two).

Marjorie went to LeMoyne High School (a private school) after attending public school in Memphis. Then she went on to graduate cum laude from Howard University in 1935.

She briefly taught at Gilbert Academy in New Orleans. She earned her M.S. in mathematics from the University of Michigan in 1939, then joined the Wiley College faculty in Marshall, Texas, and started working on her doctorate in Michigan during summers. She became a teaching fellow in 1947 at the University of Michigan. In 1949, Marjorie earned her doctorate in mathematics. She was among the first Black women to earn a doctorate in mathematics.

Doctor Browne went to North Carolina College (now North Carolina Central University) where she taught mathematics after graduating from Michigan University. She soon became the chair of the Mathematics department in 1951; she resigned as department chair in 1970. She stayed at NCCU until she retired in 1979.

In the years of 1952-1953, Marjorie won a Ford Foundation fellowship to study combinatorial topology at Cambridge University and traveled throughout western Europe. Dr. Browne was a National Science Foundation Faculty Fellow studying computing and numerical analysis at the University of California at Los Angeles. When she studied differential topology at Columbia University in 1965-66, she won a similar fellowship.

Four years before Marjorie's retirement, in 1975, Dr. Browne was the first recipient of the W.W. Rankin Memorial Award for Excellence in Mathematics Education, given by the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics. "She pioneered in the Mathematics Section of the North Carolina Teachers Association, helping to pave the way for integrated organizations," as the award states.

In the last years of her life, Marjorie Lee Browne used her own money to help gifted math students pursue their education. Some students came to her with less than adequate preparations and she helped them pursue study of mathematics and complete their Ph.D. degrees. Unfortunately, on October 19, 1979, Dr. Marjorie Lee Browne died of a heart attack at the age of 65.