

# **13 pioneering women in science history you should know**





## **In memory of Marie Curie**

**Complied by:**

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The scientist is  
not a person  
who gives the  
right answers;  
he is one  
who asks  
the right questions.

— Claude Levi-Strauss  
(French Anthropologist)

Science is the key to our future,  
and if you don't believe in science,  
then you're holding everybody back.

- Bill Nye



# Marie-Anne Paulze Lavoisier



**The Mother of Modern Chemistry**

**Significant contributor to the  
understanding of chemistry in  
the late 1700s**

# Henrietta Swan Leavitt

**Discovered the relation between  
the **luminosity** and the period of  
Cepheid variable stars**





# Bertha Parker Pallan Cody



**The first **Native-American**  
**woman** archaeologist**

# Rosalind Franklin

**British chemist whose X-ray diffraction studies provided crucial clues to the structure of DNA and quantitatively confirmed the **Watson-Crick DNA model****







"Science, for me,  
gives a partial  
explanation for life.  
In so far as it goes, it  
is based on fact,  
experience and  
experiment."

**Dr. Rosalind Franklin**

# Alice Ball



**Black chemist** who  
revolutionized the treatment  
for leprosy in the early 20th  
century

# Chien-Shiung Wu

**Chinese-American** particle and experimental physicist who made significant contributions in the fields of nuclear and particle physics



# Barbara McClintock



**Best known for discovering  
genetic transposition  
("jumping genes")**

# Maria Sibylla Merian

**German-born naturalist** and  
nature artist known for her  
illustrations of insects and  
plants



# Caroline Herschel



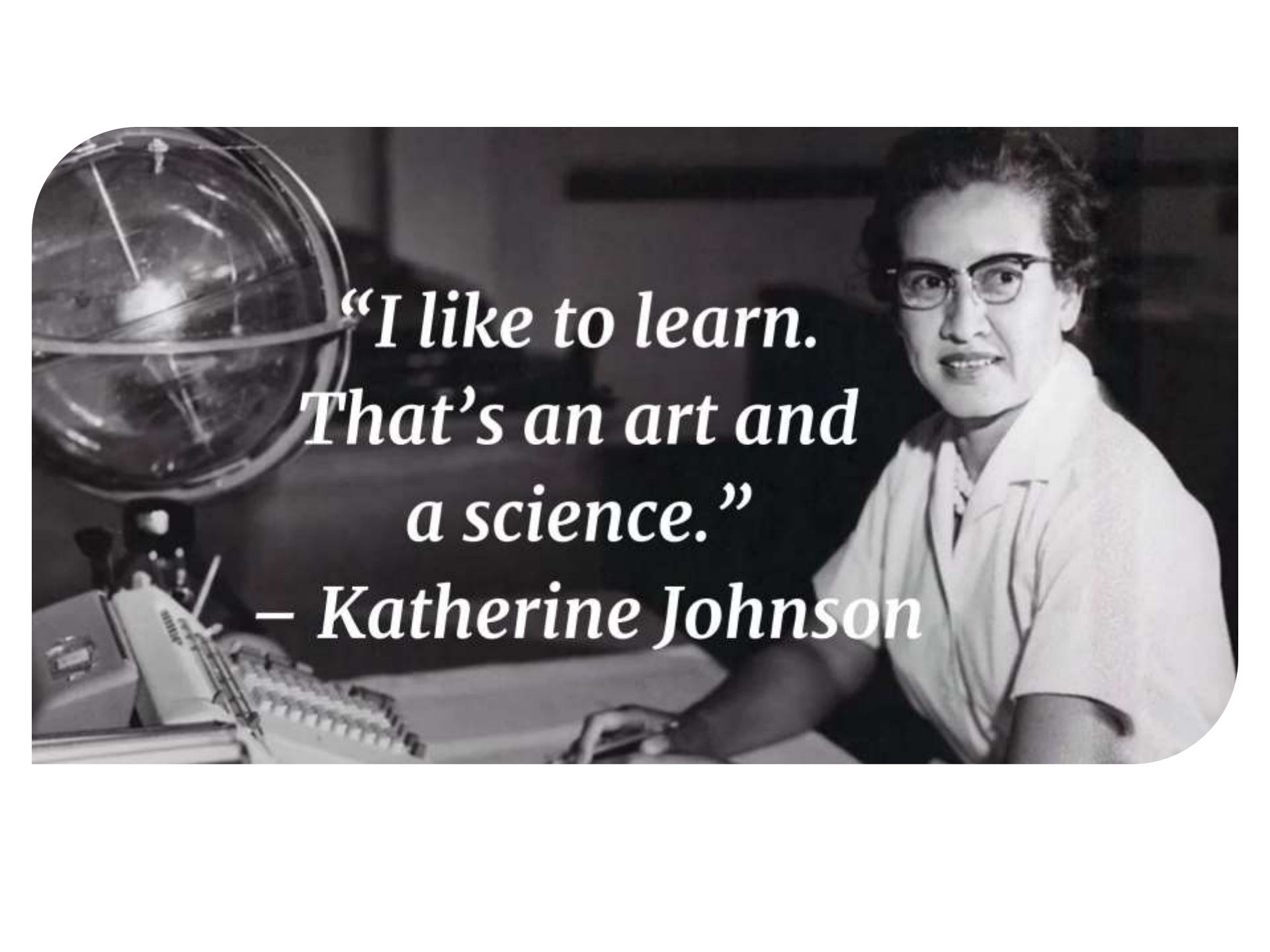
**The first woman to discover a comet**



# Katherine Johnson

**One of the first African-  
American women to work as a  
NASA scientist**

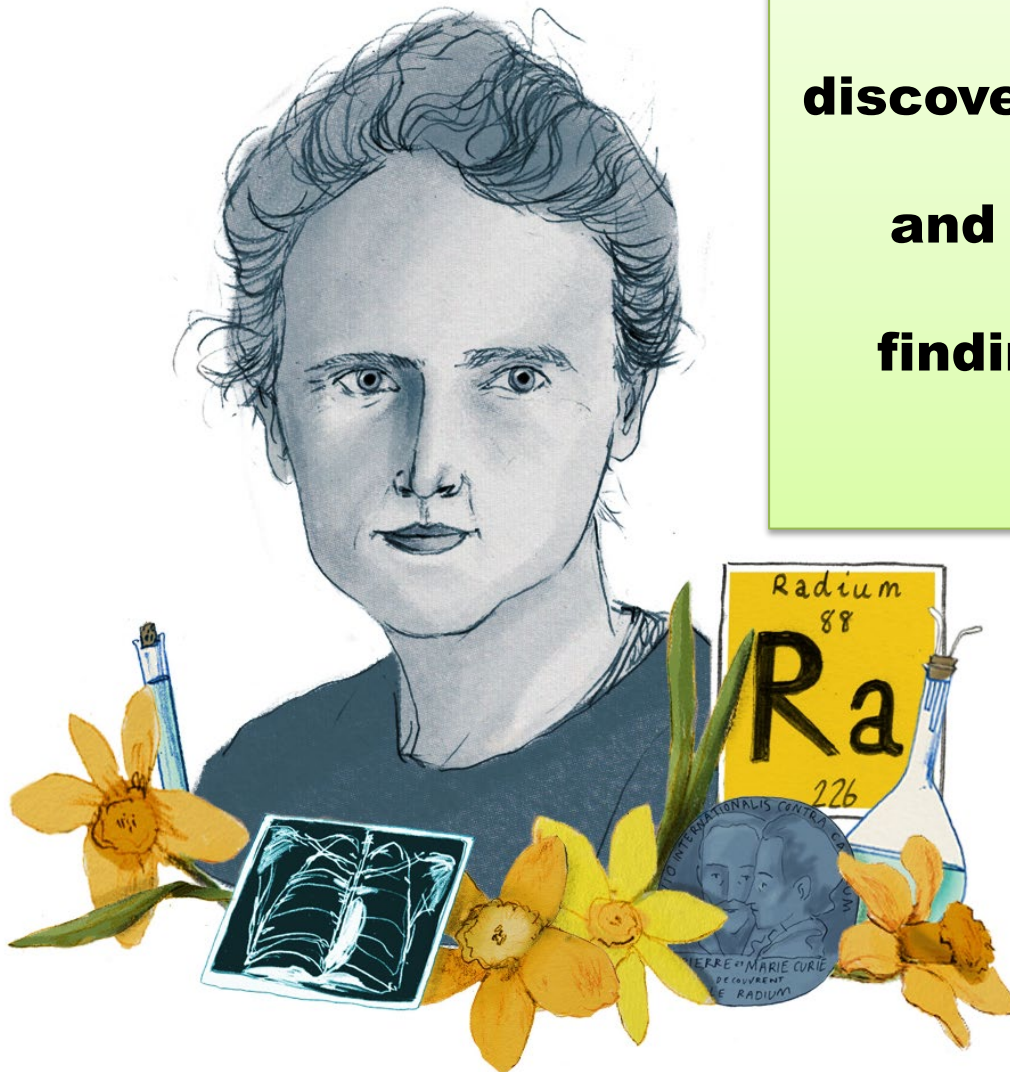


A black and white photograph of Katherine Johnson, a prominent African American mathematician, scientist, and NASA employee. She is seated at her desk, wearing glasses and a light-colored short-sleeved shirt. To her left is a large globe on a stand, and in front of her is a vintage typewriter. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be an office or library setting. The image has rounded corners on the left and right sides.

*“I like to learn.  
That’s an art and  
a science.”  
– Katherine Johnson*

# Marie Curie

**Polish Chemist** known for her  
discovery of radium and polonium,  
and her huge contribution to  
finding treatments for **cancer**



# Lise Meitner

**Pioneering physicist who was  
part of a team that discovered  
**nuclear fission****



# Marie Tharp



**American geologist who  
revolutionized our knowledge  
of the seafloor**



“Nothing in life  
is to be feared,  
it is only to be  
understood. Now  
is the time to  
understand more,  
so that we may  
fear less.”

—Marie Curie

