

**Grade 5****Reading Biography****Journey to the Stars: The Inspiring Story of Mae Jemison**

Mae Jemison is a remarkable figure in the history of space exploration and science. Born on October 17, 1956, in Decatur, Alabama, Mae always had her eyes set on the stars. As a young girl, she was fascinated by science and knew she wanted to make a difference in the world. Her family moved to Chicago when she was just three years old, and it was there that her love for science truly blossomed.

From a young age, Mae was a standout student. She excelled in her studies and was especially drawn to subjects like biology, engineering, and space science. Her parents, Charlie and Dorothy Jemison, encouraged her to pursue her passions and never let anything stand in her way. Mae took this advice to heart, working hard in school and setting her sights on a future in space.

After high school, Mae went on to attend Stanford University, where she earned a degree in chemical engineering. She was one of the few African American students in her class, but she never let that deter her from reaching her goals. Mae was determined to break barriers and inspire others to follow their dreams, no matter the obstacles.

Following her time at Stanford, Mae decided to pursue a medical degree at Cornell University. She was drawn to medicine because of her desire to help people and make a positive impact on the world. During her time in medical school, Mae traveled to Cuba and Thailand, providing medical care to those in need. These experiences solidified her commitment to serving others and using her knowledge for the greater good.

In 1987, Mae's dreams of becoming an astronaut came true when she was selected to join NASA's astronaut program. She worked tirelessly, undergoing rigorous training and preparation for her mission. In 1992, Mae made history as the first African American

woman in space, serving as a mission specialist aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour. This monumental achievement was a testament to her hard work, determination, and unwavering spirit.

After leaving NASA in 1993, Mae continued to make strides in science and education. She founded the Jemison Group, a company focused on advancing technology for everyday life. She also established the Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excellence, named after her mother, to promote science education for children.

Mae Jemison's journey from a curious young girl in Chicago to a pioneering astronaut is a powerful story of perseverance and passion. She broke barriers, shattered stereotypes, and paved the way for future generations of astronauts and scientists. Today, Mae continues to inspire young people around the world to reach for the stars and follow their dreams.

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#### Multiple Choice Questions:

1. Where was Mae Jemison born?

- A) Chicago, Illinois
- B) Decatur, Alabama
- C) New York, New York
- D) San Francisco, California

2. What sparked Mae's interest in science?

- A) Moving to Chicago
- B) Attending Stanford University
- C) Her parents' encouragement
- D) All of the above

3. Which university did Mae attend for her undergraduate degree?

- A) Harvard University
- B) Stanford University
- C) Cornell University
- D) University of Chicago

4. What degree did Mae earn at Stanford University?

- A) Biology
- B) Chemical Engineering
- C) Medicine
- D) Aerospace Engineering

5. Why did Mae choose to pursue a medical degree?

- A) She wanted to become a doctor.
- B) She wanted to help people and make a positive impact.
- C) She was interested in space medicine.
- D) Both A and B

6. In which year did Mae Jemison join NASA's astronaut program?

- A) 1985
- B) 1987
- C) 1992
- D) 1993

7. What was Mae Jemison's role on the Space Shuttle Endeavour?

- A) Pilot
- B) Commander
- C) Mission Specialist
- D) Flight Engineer

8. What historic achievement did Mae accomplish in 1992?

- A) She became the first woman in space.
- B) She became the first African American woman in space.
- C) She founded the Jemison Group.
- D) She graduated from medical school.

9. What is the name of the foundation Mae established for promoting science education?

- A) The Jemison Foundation
- B) The Mae Jemison Foundation
- C) The Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excellence
- D) The Space Science Foundation

10. What was the main message of Mae Jemison's story?

- A) Persistence pays off
- B) Follow your dreams
- C) Break barriers and inspire others
- D) All of the above

1. Answer: B) Decatur, Alabama

Explanation: The passage mentions that Mae Jemison was born in Decatur, Alabama.

2. Answer: D) All of the above

Explanation: The passage highlights that her interest in science blossomed after moving to Chicago, her parents encouraged her, and she pursued related studies at Stanford.

3. Answer: B) Stanford University

Explanation: Mae Jemison attended Stanford University for her undergraduate degree in chemical engineering.

4. Answer: B) Chemical Engineering

Explanation: The passage states that Mae earned a degree in chemical engineering from Stanford University.

5. Answer: D) Both A and B

Explanation: Mae was drawn to medicine because she wanted to help people and make a positive impact, and she also had an interest in becoming a doctor.

6. Answer: B) 1987

Explanation: Mae Jemison was selected to join NASA's astronaut program in 1987.

7. Answer: C) Mission Specialist

Explanation: Mae served as a mission specialist aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour

8. Answer: B) She became the first African American woman in space.

Explanation: In 1992, Mae Jemison became the first African American woman to travel in space.

9. Answer: C) The Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excellence

Explanation: Mae established the Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excellence to promote science education for children.

10. Answer: D) All of the above

Explanation: Mae Jemison's story conveys the messages of persistence, following one's dreams, breaking barriers, and inspiring others.