

A black and white photograph of Katherine Johnson, a NASA mathematician. She is seated at a desk, wearing glasses and a light-colored short-sleeved blouse. To her left is a large globe on a stand. The background is dark and out of focus. The text "NASA Remembers Katherine Johnson 1918 - 2020" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

NASA Remembers  
Katherine Johnson  
1918 - 2020

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:06,260

NASA Remembers Katherine Johnson 1918 - 2020

2

00:00:06,260 --> 00:00:10,840

Katherine began working at the all-black West Area Computing section at the

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00:00:10,840 --> 00:00:17,040

National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics' (NACA's) Langley laboratory in the summer of 1953.

4

00:00:17,040 --> 00:00:25,280

She did trajectory analysis for Alan Shepard's May 1961 mission Freedom 7, America's first human spaceflight

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00:00:25,280 --> 00:00:30,320

When NASA began to use electronic computer for their calculations, astronaut John Glenn said

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00:00:30,320 --> 00:00:35,200

that he'd trust the computers only after Johnson personally checked the math.

7

00:00:35,200 --> 00:00:40,160

When asked to name her greatest contribution to space exploration, Katherine Johnson talked about the

8

00:00:40,240 --> 00:00:45,920

calculations that helped synch Project Apollo's Lunar Lander with the moon orbiting Command and Service Mo

9

00:00:45,920 --> 00:00:54,840

She also worked on the Space Shuttle and the Earth Resources Satellite and authored or coauthored 26 rese