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## Mae Jemison: The First African-American Woman in Space

Mae Jemison is a remarkable astronaut known for her pioneering achievements in space exploration and her commitment to promoting diversity and education in STEM fields. Her life, work, and enduring legacy continue to inspire individuals around the world. Let's delve into the extraordinary journey of this famous astronaut.

### Early Life and Education

Mae Carol Jemison was born on October 17, 1956, in Decatur, Alabama. She grew up in Chicago, Illinois, where she developed a deep passion for science and space exploration. Encouraged by her parents to pursue her interests, young Mae excelled in school and graduated from Morgan Park High School at the age of 16.

Jemison's academic journey led her to Stanford University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering. Subsequently, she attended Cornell University Medical College, where she obtained her Doctor of Medicine degree. Mae's education was marked by a strong commitment to her goals and a belief that science and medicine could positively impact the world.

### Becoming an Astronaut

Mae Jemison's dream of becoming an astronaut was realized when she was selected by NASA in 1987 to join the astronaut corps. Her selection marked a historic moment as she became the first African-American woman to be chosen as an astronaut.

In 1992, Jemison made history once again when she flew aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour during mission STS-47. Her mission was dedicated to scientific research and included experiments in materials science, life sciences, and technology development.

### Legacy and Impact

Mae Jemison's legacy extends beyond her groundbreaking spaceflight. After leaving NASA, she continued to advocate for STEM education, diversity in the sciences, and the importance of space exploration. She founded The Jemison Group, a technology and consulting company, and the Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excellence, named in honor of her mother. These organizations work to improve science education and inspire young people, especially girls and minority students, to pursue careers in STEM fields.

Jemison's numerous awards and honors include being named one of the 50 Most Beautiful People in the world by People magazine in 1993 and being inducted into the International Space Hall of Fame in 2004. Her remarkable achievements serve as an inspiration to individuals of all backgrounds, proving that anyone can reach for the stars and make a lasting impact in the field of space exploration and beyond.

