Mae Jemison
Worksheets

**Chicago Native**

Complete the details of Mae Jemison’s early life and upbringing by writing the missing words and names on the spaces below.

Mae Jemison was born on October 17, 1956 in Decatur, ________, She was the youngest child of Charlie Jemison, a maintenance supervisor, ________.

**Master of Many**

Mae Jemison is a master of many trades. Her determination and intelligence has helped her reach new heights and accomplishments in her career. Can you provide details under each of her titles below?

- **DANGER**
- **PHYSICIAN**
- **ENGINEER**
- **ASTRONAUT**
- **ACTRESS**

**Mix and Mae**

Match the phrases to form complete sentences that tell something factual about Mae Jemison.

- One of Mae Jemison’s greatest inspirations is...
- Mae Jemison is a strong advocate of...
- When Mae Jemison was 11 years old, she pursued...
- After college, she chose to attend...
- She was a medical officer of...
- She built her own...

- science education.
- medical school.
- Martin Luther King Jr.
- dance studio.
- the Peace Corps.
- dance.
Dr. Mae Jemison is an American physician and engineer. She was the first African-American to be a NASA astronaut. She served in the Peace Corps for two years. She founded the Jemison Group and the Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excellence.

Early Life
- Mae Carol Jemison was born on October 17, 1956 in Decatur, Alabama.
- She was born as the youngest child of Charlie Jemison, a maintenance supervisor, and Dorothy Green, an elementary school teacher.
- When she was three years old, she and her family moved to Chicago, Illinois to pursue better opportunities in education and employment.
Mae Jemison

- At a young age, Jemison was already fascinated by science.
- When she was asked by her teacher what she wanted to be when she grew up, she said she wanted to be a scientist.
- Jemison pursued dance when she was 11 years old.
- She trained in ballet, jazz, modern dance, African dance, and Japanese dance.

Education and Inspirations

- One of Jemison’s main inspirations is Martin Luther King, Jr.
- When the Apollo was launched, Jemison remembers being irritated by the lack of female astronauts.
- She viewed the civil rights movement as a call to break down barriers.
- In 1973, Jemison graduated from Chicago's Morgan Park High School.
- She attended Stanford University and earned her Bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering in 1977.
- She also completed the requirements for a Bachelor of Arts degree in African and Afro-American Studies.
- In Stanford, she headed the Black Students Union.
- According to Jemison, being a black woman in her university was difficult because of racial discrimination.
- She decided between pursuing professional dance or a medical degree upon graduation.
- She chose to attend medical school in New York.
- In 1981, she obtained her medical degree at Cornell Medical College.
- While still in medical school, Jemison traveled to provide medical care to people in Thailand, Cuba, and Kenya.
- She completed her internship at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center.
Mae Jemison

▪ She worked as a general practitioner in 1982.
▪ Jemison juggled studying medicine and taking modern dance lessons at the Alvin Ailey School.

Peace Corps Work

▪ From 1983 to 1985, she served as a Peace Corps Medical Officer and attended to the health and medical needs of the Peace Corps volunteers in Liberia and Sierra Leone.
▪ Jemison worked with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in vaccine research.
▪ As a Peace Corps Medical Officer, she also designed and implemented health and safety guidelines as well as self-care manuals.

Female Astronaut

▪ Jemison applied to be a NASA astronaut in 1983 after the flight of Sally Ride had launched.
▪ The Space Shuttle Challenger disaster in 1986 delayed her involvement with NASA.
▪ She reapplied in 1987 and was accepted into the astronaut program.
▪ Before her shuttle launch, she worked at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida to help support the launch of vehicles.
▪ She also worked in the Shuttle Avionics Integration Laboratory (SAIL) by helping to verify computer software.

Dr. Mae Jemison at Kennedy Space Center in Florida
Mae Jemison

- Jemison’s only flight to space mission happened from September 12 to 20, 1992 when she worked as a Mission Specialist on STS-47.
- As a Mission Specialist, she worked on two bone cell research experiments.
- Jemison also investigated and experimented on weightlessness and motion sickness on herself and six other crew members on the mission.
- STS-47 was a cooperative mission between the United States and Japan.
- There were 44 experiments on life science and materials processing conducted on that space mission.
- She resigned from NASA in March 1993.

Photo of Mae Jemison from NASA
Mae Jemison

Career in Science

- Jemison is a strong advocate of science education.
- Jemison was a professor of Environmental Studies at Dartmouth College for seven years (1995 to 2002).
- She is a Professor-at-Large at Cornell University.
- She founded the Jemison Group in 1993.
- The Jemison Group focuses on the research and development of science and technology projects that are relevant to people’s daily lives.
- Jemison founded the Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excellence, a foundation named after her mother.
- An international science camp called *The Earth We Share* (TEWS), where students collaborate to solve global issues, is one of the foundation’s projects.
- She founded BioSentient Corp in 1999.

Media and Public Appearances

- Jemison was the first real-life astronaut to appear in an episode of Star Trek: The Next Generation.
- She appeared in World of Wonder, a science series on the Discovery Channel, where she was a host and consultant.
- Jemison has given public speeches and lectures in universities and at events to encourage young people and advocate for the significance of a career path in science and technology.
Mae Jemison

Significant Work and Legacies

▪ Jemison founded a dance studio in her own home.
▪ She wrote her memoir entitled *Find Where the Wind Goes* which was published in 2001.
▪ She co-authored a series called *True Book Series* with Dana Meachen Rau and the series was published in 2013.
▪ Jemison has received multiple awards for her contributions in science and technology: Johnson Publications Black Achievement Trailblazers Award (1992), Kilby Science Award (1993), Turner Trumpet Award (1993), and Buzz Aldrin Space Pioneer Award (2017), among others.
▪ She has received nine honorary doctorates.
Mae ___________ Jemison was born on October 17, 1956 in Decatur, ___________. She was the youngest child of Charlie Jemison, a maintenance supervisor, and Dorothy Green, an elementary school ___________. When she was ___________ years old, she and her family moved to Chicago, ___________ to pursue better opportunities in employment and education. At a young age, Jemison was already fascinated by ___________. When she was asked by her teacher what she wanted to be when she grew up, she said she wanted to be a ___________. 
Mae Jemison is a master of many trades. Her determination and intelligence has helped her reach many heights and accomplishments in her career. Can you provide details under each of her titles below?

**DANCER**
____________________
____________________
____________________
____________________
____________________
____________________

**PHYSICIAN**
____________________
____________________
____________________
____________________
____________________

**ENGINEER**
____________________
____________________
____________________
____________________
____________________

**ASTRONAUT**
____________________
____________________
____________________
____________________
____________________

**ACTRESS**
____________________
____________________
____________________
____________________
____________________
Match the phrases to form complete sentences that tell something factual about Mae Jemison.

- One of Mae Jemison’s greatest inspirations is...
- Mae Jemison is a strong advocate of...
- When Mae Jemison was 11 years old, she pursued...
- After college, she chose to attend...
- She was a medical officer of...
- She built her own...

- ...science education.
- ...medical school.
- ...Martin Luther King Jr.
- ...dance studio.
- ...the Peace Corps.
- ...dance.
Before Dr. Mae Jemison’s career took off, she had to take little steps to get there. What are the significant events that happened in her life in the following years?

1977
_________________
_________________
_________________
1983
_________________
_________________
_________________
1987
_________________
_________________
_________________
1999
_________________
_________________
Dr. Mae Jemison applied and got accepted to be a NASA Astronaut. What did she do as an astronaut? Narrate her experiences with NASA (from her acceptance to her resignation) in your own words.
Search for the following words in the word puzzle below. They’re all words that are related to Mae Jemison’s life and career. Cross the words out once you’ve spotted them.

SHUTTLE  RESEARCH  MEDICINE
BALLET  PROFESSOR  PHYSICIAN
SCIENTIST  SPACE

A S H U T T L E O N G U D F P
S S C I E N T I S T T R W G H
C T S P A C L E V R B I A P Y
I Y R P R E P E N I N N U N S
E S E C R T R R H I F E R B I
N P S E U O O S R A C F M A C
T A P P I B F T T T G I H L I
I R A H C R A E S E R F D L A
S W C A V E M L S T R R A E N
L A E B E H E L N S Q S A S M
U R I N A R D A R A O T U R E
G M E D I C N B S F T R A H J
True or False

Draw the Earth next to the statements that are true about Dr. Mae Jemison. Draw a sad face if the statement is false.

She was a professor of Environmental Studies at Harvard.

She traveled to provide medical care to people in Thailand, Cuba, and Kenya.

She received the Buzz Aldrin Space Pioneer Award in 2017.

She worked with the Center for Disease Control in vaccine research.

She worked on two bone cell research experiments while in space mission.

She obtained her medical degree at New York University.

She earned a B.A. degree in African and Afro-American Studies.

She wrote her memoir entitled *Find Where Space Goes*.

She has received nineteen honorary doctorates.

She conducted experiments on weightlessness in space.

At Stanford, she headed the Black Students Theater.

She completed her internship at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center.
Name: ______________

Involved in Institutions

Give a short background on the following institutions/organizations studied, joined, or founded by Dr. Mae Jemison.

NASA

[Blank lines]

Peace Corps

[Blank lines]

Stanford University

[Blank lines]

Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excellence

[Blank lines]

The Jemison Group

[Blank lines]
Dr. Mae Jemison said the following quotes. What do you make of these quotes? Write the main thing you learned from them.

Don't let anyone rob you of your imagination, your creativity, or your curiosity. It's your place in the world; it's your life. Go on and do all you can with it, and make it the life you want to live.

What we find is that if you have a goal that is very, very far out, and you approach it in little steps, you start to get there faster.

Name: ______________
Dr. Mae Jemison has achieved success in the career paths she pursued. She reached her dreams because she never gave up and always kept in mind why she does what she does. Make your own vision board to always motivate you to reach for your dreams.

What are your dreams and goals?
What motivates you to achieve them?