

"It wasn't until I went to college and Sally Ride came to talk—it just opened up that possibility of if she could do it then I could aspire to do it too."

Cady Coleman
chemist, retired United States Air Force officer, and NASA astronaut

Learn more about these women and others at chandra.si.edu/women
www.nasa.gov

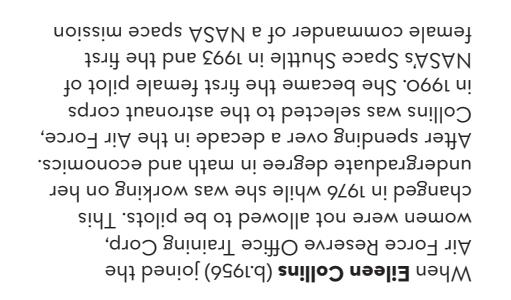
illustrations: Kristin DiVona



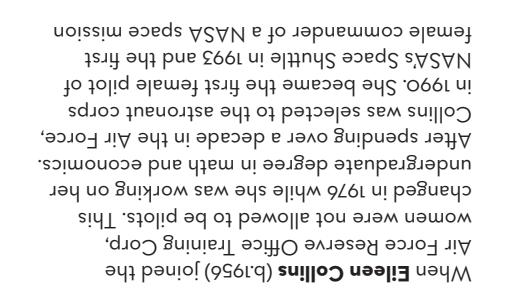
Mary Jackson (b. 1921) grew up in Virginia and graduated from college with a Bachelor's degree in mathematics. After spending part of her early career as a teacher, she changed paths to become a "computer" (or mathematician) for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), which later became NASA. Jackson worked on data from wind tunnel experiments as well as data from aircraft and aeronautics experiments.



Melba Roy Mouton (b. 1929) was a mathematician and computer programmer in NASA's Trajectory and Geometry Division, along with the Assistant Chief of Research Programs. Mouton worked at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, coding computer programs to calculate the trajectories and locations of various aircraft.



Katherine Coleman Goble Johnson (b. 1918) is an African-American space scientist and mathematician who calculated space flight trajectories for critical NASA projects such as the 1969 Apollo 11 trip to the Moon. Johnson was known for her mathematical accuracy and was asked to double check the computer-based calculations on major space flight missions.



Cady Coleman (b. 1960) helped deploy NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory into space in 1999 and has since spent about 180 days aboard the International Space Station.



Hypatia (born in 350) was known as a great thinker in her age. She was one of the earliest women to be a noted astronomer, mathematician and philosopher in ancient Greece and Egypt, and was also the head of an important school in Alexandria.



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