

People Who Helped

Read how three African Americans made positive differences.

SS.3.AA.1 "Positive influences and contributions by African Americans"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that tell how each person helped others, and circle each person's name so you can connect each contribution to the person.

Contributions That Made a Difference

- ① In 1962, NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson checked the path for John Glenn's spaceflight. Electronic computers were new, so Glenn asked Johnson to check the numbers by hand before he flew. Her careful math helped NASA plan the flight safely. Johnson showed that African American women could make important contributions in science and space travel for everyone.
- ② In 1960, six-year-old Ruby Bridges became the first African American child to attend William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans after it began to desegregate. Angry crowds stood outside, but Ruby went to school each day with federal marshals. Her brave action helped show that Black children deserved the same chance to learn in public schools.
- ③ George Washington Carver was a scientist and teacher who studied crops in the South. He taught farmers to plant peanuts and sweet potatoes in different years. This helped the soil stay healthier after many cotton crops. Carver also shared useful ideas for foods and products made from these plants. His work helped farmers and communities.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What important job did Katherine Johnson do for John Glenn's spaceflight?

2 How did Ruby Bridges' action make a positive difference for children?

3 What did George Washington Carver teach farmers to do, and how did it help?

4 Name the three people in the passage. Tell one way each person made a positive difference.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one person from the passage. Write exactly three sentences for a museum label: name the person, explain the contribution, and tell how it helped people or opened an opportunity.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words that tell how each person helped others, and circle each person's name so you can connect each contribution to the person. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What important job did Katherine Johnson do for John Glenn's spaceflight?	She checked the flight path and numbers by hand.
2	How did Ruby Bridges' action make a positive difference for children?	Her action helped show that Black children deserved the same chance to learn in public schools.
3	What did George Washington Carver teach farmers to do, and how did it help?	He taught them to plant peanuts and sweet potatoes in different years. This helped keep the soil healthier after cotton crops.
4	Name the three people in the passage. Tell one way each person made a positive difference.	Katherine Johnson helped NASA plan a safe spaceflight. Ruby Bridges helped show that Black children deserved equal chances in public schools. George Washington Carver helped farmers care for soil and use crops in useful ways.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Katherine Johnson was a NASA mathematician. She checked numbers for John Glenn's spaceflight by hand. Her careful math helped NASA plan a safe flight and showed that African American women could contribute to science.

Accept any accurate three-sentence label based on one person in the passage. The response should name a contribution and explain its positive influence on people, opportunities, or a community.