

Mae Jemison

October 17, 1956 - present

Diligence



“Never be limited by other people’s imagination; never limit others because of your own limited imagination.” Mae Jemison

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Mae Jemison was the first African-American in space. She is most recognized for her contribution as a NASA astronaut, where she conducted experiments on bone cell research and motion sickness during her space flight. She contributed to the development of space shuttle technology and helped to design the first space lab that was used to study weightlessness and motion sickness.

In addition to her work as an astronaut, Jemison is also a physician and engineer. She founded the *Jemison Group*, a technology consulting firm that develops and implements sustainable engineering solutions to problems in developing countries.

Mae Jemison was born the youngest three children in Alabama, and moved to Chicago when she was young. She acquired her early education, explored her love of dance, and developed a desire to travel space. She was fascinated with Lieutenant Uhura, played by Nichelle Nichols, from the *Star Trek* television show, as well as the early Apollo launches both fueled her love of space exploration. She graduated high school at the young age of sixteen, and went on to Stanford University to con-

tinue her education. As one of only a few African-American students, she experienced racial discrimination in school, became president of the Black Student Union and later, choreographed a performance called *Out of the Shadows* about African-American experience. Jemison maintained a double major at Stanford, receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree in African and African-American Studies as well as a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering. She went on to study at Cornell Medical School, practice medicine, and serve as a medical officer in Africa for two years. Jemison speaks four languages: Russian, Japanese, Swahili and of course, English.

After hearing about Jemison being a fan of *Star Trek*, she was invited to be a guest as Lieutenant Palmer on *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. Jemison created an international space camp, *The Earth We Share* for children ages 12-16.

Jemison shows the **soft skill of diligence** to her work and has overcome many obstacles throughout her life and is dedicated to helping others overcome obstacles and meet their dreams as well.

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