

# Who Is Mae Jemison?

Mae Jemison is a scientist. She is a researcher. She worked hard to become the first African American woman to enter space.

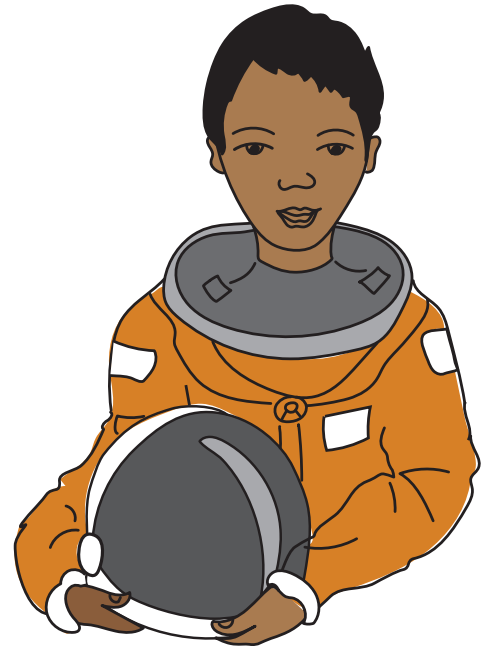
She was born in Decatur, Alabama, on October 17, 1956, but she grew up in Chicago, Illinois, after turning 3 years old. She has two older siblings, a sister and a brother. When she was little, she liked to dance. She liked science and astronomy. She wanted to go to space.

Mae went to college in California and New York. She kept dancing while at school. Finally, Mae became a doctor. She worked in Africa as a doctor for two years.

On her second try, Mae became an astronaut for NASA. She finally went to space! She was on the same mission as the first Japanese astronaut.

After leaving NASA, she started a camp called The Earth We Share. The camp helps kids learn more about science. Kids go to the camp from around the world. At the camp, young scientists get to share their ideas about future missions.

Now Dr. Mae Jemison lives in Texas. She still does research. She is trying to find ways to get to another star. All her work inspires others to reach for the stars, too.



What else do you want to know about Mae Jemison?

Potential Student Answers

**Directions:** Answer the questions about the text.

1. What are some things Mae Jemison liked to do as a child?

Mae liked science and she liked to dance.

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2. Why is Mae Jemison famous?

She was the first African American woman to enter space. She has a camp where kids come from

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around the world.

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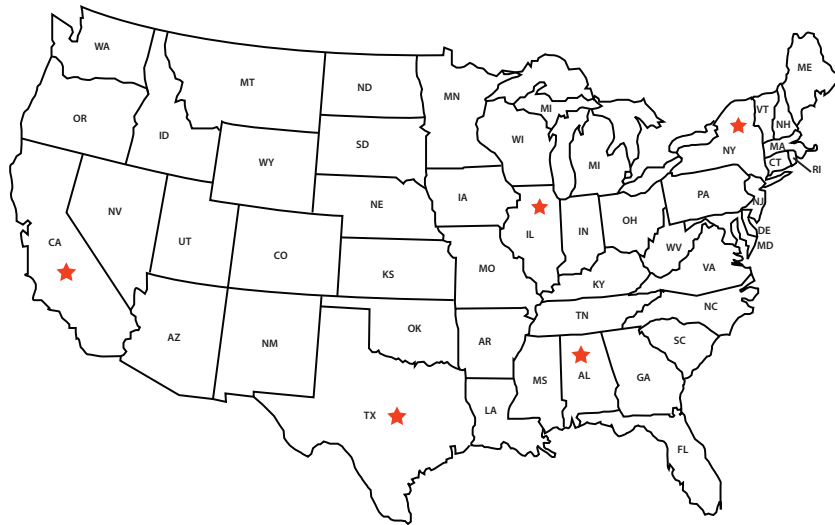
3. What is a challenge Mae Jemison had in her life?

It took Mae two tries to get into NASA. She went to medical school and became a doctor. She worked in Africa as a doctor.

4. Where did Mae Jemison go to school?

Mae went to school in New York, Illinois, California, and maybe where she was born in Alabama.

5. Where did Mae Jemison live in the United States? Put a star on the states in the map.



6. What else would you like to know about Mae Jemison? Share your ideas with a friend.

Students' answers will vary.