

"REACHING FOR THE STARS" DR. MAE JEMISON

STUDY GUIDE FOR K-5

Written by Joanna Maddox

ARTIST BACKGROUND

Joanna Maddox a professional actress, singer, storyteller writes and performs dramatic portrayals of historical American women. She received a BFA in Drama from the University of Georgia. She has toured throughout the US and is an approved Touring Artist of the National Women's History Project and Fulton County Arts Council's School Arts Program. She has appeared in numerous national television and radio commercials, Corporate videos and is a member of Screen Actor's Guild and AFTRA.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

This program connects with the earth/space science units as well as women's history with Dr. Jemison being the first black female to travel to outer space. Character traits emphasized are perseverance, determination, dedication and courage.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Do you have the right stuff? The primary objective of this program is to show just what it takes to be an astronaut; the educational physical and training requirements.
- To demonstrate that astronauts living in space perform the same normal daily activities as they do on earth such as; eating, sleeping and maintaining physical hygiene.
- To encourage students to pursue their dreams and not limit themselves by other peoples' limited imagination.
- To present a positive female role model and encourage youths to enter scientific fields.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Dr. Mae Jemison is a chemical engineer, scientist, physician teacher and astronaut. Her skills and expertise reflect a determined individual whose contributions to the nation and the world make a difference. Jemison was determined since grade school to explore space and went on to become the first black woman to travel in space aboard the Endeavor on September 12, 1992. Before joining NASA she worked as a General Practitioner in LA and as a Peace Corps Medical Officer in West Africa. She speaks Japanese, Russian and Swahili. She has always followed her dreams, undaunted by the lack of role models in her fields or roadblocks to women and minorities. She encourages all people, especially women and minorities, to pursue careers in science and any other fields of their choice. In this program the audience will go on an imaginary trip into space and will discover what it is really like to be in space. They will learn some of the effects space travel has on the human body. An experiment will be performed at the conclusion of the program. Program length is 45 minutes.

VOCABULARY

Astronaut- a person who travels in space or trains for space flight

NASA – stands for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration / the government agency in charge of the US space program.

Simulator-man made vehicle that creates a space like environment and allows astronauts to practice for their space flights.

Space shuttle- first reusable space craft that carries astronauts and equipment into orbit.

Gravity - is the force of attraction between 2 objects that is influenced by their mass and the distance between them.

Zero Gravity- absence of gravitational force exerted on a body

Atmosphere- layers of gas that surrounds a star or planet **Space-** the region beyond the Earth's atmosphere.

Space – the region beyond the Earth's atmosphere

Satellite – any object that orbits the Earth, the Moon or other body in space

Orbit –path followed by a planet or satellite as it revolves around another object like the earth.

OVERVIEW OF ART FORM

The art forms demonstrated in this program are storytelling and music. Information presented in the narrative form is the information that will be remembered. Before television and radio people told stories and the ancient art of storytelling is making a comeback. Storytelling can be used to entertain, inspire, encourage, heal and pass down cultural history and information from generation to generation.

Through stories people can connect with each other and learn to appreciate each other. Artist and audience will sing, “I believe I can fly.”

PRE-ACTIVITIES & POST ACTIVITIES

1. It is suggested that that students familiarize themselves with space travel by reading one of the books

from the Resource Guide.

2. Students can learn the vocabulary words.

3. Students 8-14 may write and join the US Space Club

PO Box 1680

Huntsville, ALA 35807

For a fee of \$20.00 annually they are kept up to date on space history, space terminology and space shuttle experiments. They receive newsletters and puzzles.

Students may research a famous Black American who has influenced them and share a report with the class dressed as that person.

QUESTIONS

What government agency is in charge of the United States space program?

What was the name of Dr. Mae Jemison’s space shuttle?

What year did she blast off into space? A 1986

B 1992

C 2003

How long is astronaut training? A 6 months

B 1 year

C 3 years

Is it a necessary to have a college degree to be an astronaut? What subjects should you concentrate on if you want to be an astronaut?

You can write to Dr Mae Jemison at the address listed below. To receive a response, please include a self-addressed, self-stamped envelope.

Dr Mae Jemison

The Jemison Group

PO Box 591455

Houston, TX 77259-1455

RESOURCE GUIDE

Books

Find Where the Wind Goes

If you were an Astronaut

Mae Jemison, space scientist

Mae Jemison, space biography

African American Astronauts

Astronaut Training

Woman in Space

Astronauts training for Space

Dr. Mae Jemison

Virginia Schomp

Gail Sakurai

Della Yannuzzi

Stanley Jones

Ann Armbruster

Carole Briggs

Micheal Cole

Women Astronauts Aboard the Shuttle
I want to be an Astronaut
Sally Ride a space biography
The US Space Camp Book
The Space Shuttle

Mary Virginia Fox
Stephanie Maze
Barbara Kramer
Anne Baird
Allison Lassieur

Websites

NASA KIDS

<http://kidsmsfc.nasa.gov>

THE ASTRONAUT CONNECTION

<http://www.yac.org>

<http://www.nauf.gov>

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/bhistory>

Technical requirements:

Rectangular table needed to display props

Microphone

Can be performed in auditorium, or gym

Audience size 300

"REACHING FOR THE STARS" - DR. MAE JEMISON

STUDY GUIDE FOR GRADES 6-12

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The Space Shuttle	Allison Lassieur

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