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Women in Engineering

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WOMEN IN ENGINEERING



1949

Dorothy Vaughan became the first African American supervisor at NACA



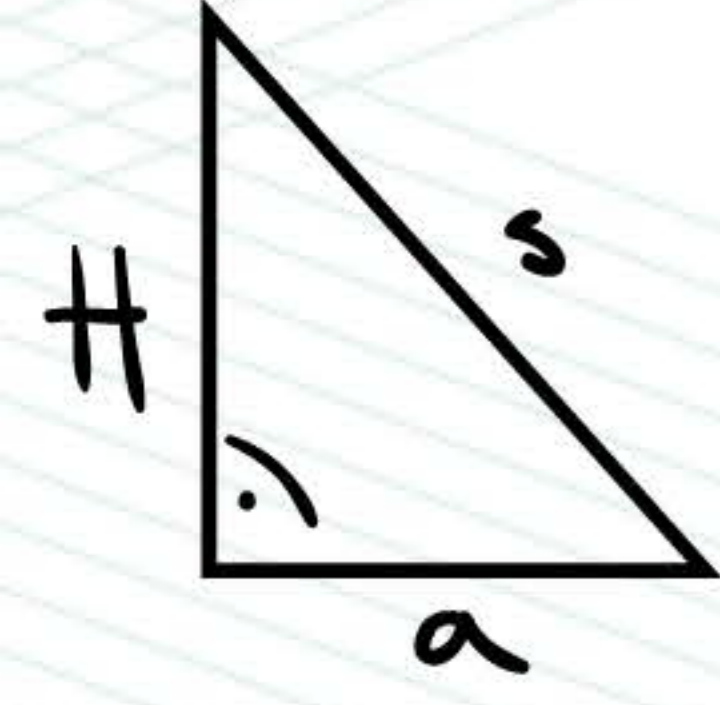
1951

Mary Jackson began her career at NACA



1957

An eleventh grade geometry teacher helped Christine Darden realize her true passion for math. From this point on she knew that her future career had to involve mathematics



1958

Mary Jackson's boss, Kaz Czarnecki, encouraged her to take engineering courses. After receiving permission to enroll from the City of Hampton, she completed her courses and became the first African-American woman engineer at Langley

1964

Civil Rights Act - it became illegal to discriminate based on gender and race



1967

Christine Darden began to work for NACA



1974

General Electric wanted to bring women into higher rankings so they created an ad that portrayed a woman smiling and sitting in an executive chair with the headline stating "We're Looking for Engineers Who Were Born to Lead"

1939

Kitty O'Brien Joyner sued the University of Virginia so that she could enroll in their undergraduate engineering school



1950

65 female Engineers gathered in New Jersey and officially established the "Society of Women Engineers"



1953

Katherine Johnson began to work for NACA



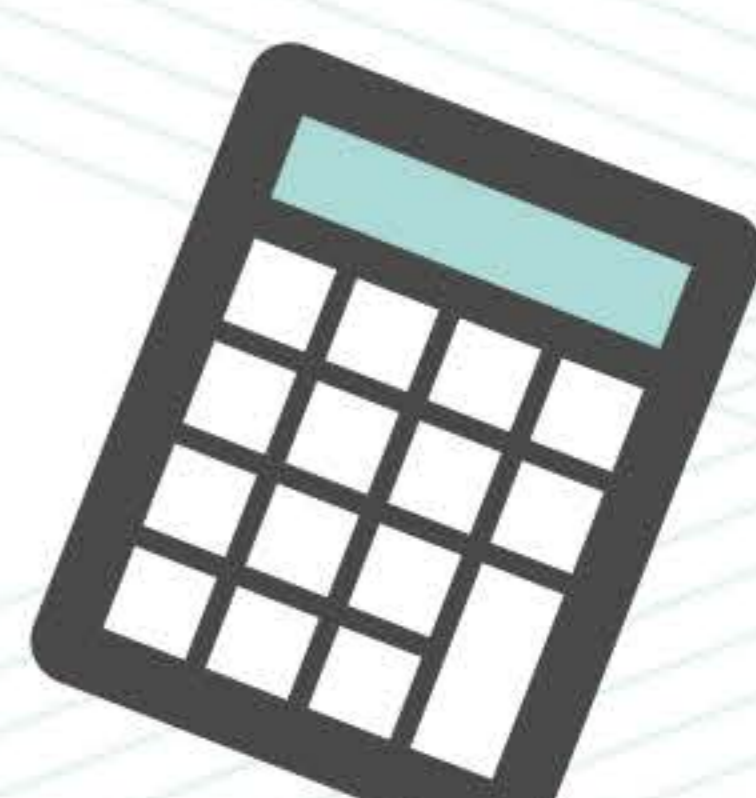
1958

Katherine Johnson is finally able to attend the editorial meetings with the male engineers at the Langley Research Center



Late 1960s/Early 1970s

Professors at MIT, Mildred Dresselhaus and Sheila Widnall began a freshman seminar in order to help teach women manual skills such as welding, model-building, and lab projects in electronics.



1974

Purdue University raised enrollment for female engineers from 46 students in 1968 to 280

1990

Mildred Dresselhaus became the first woman to win the National Medal of Science in Engineering



Interested in becoming an engineer? Check out societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/swenext