

Questions Can Take Us Far

Mae Jemison • Space research, 1992

THE STORY

In September 1992, physician and astronaut Mae Jemison became the first Black woman to travel into space. She flew aboard the space shuttle Endeavour on mission STS-47. In its Spacelab-J laboratory, the crew investigated living things and materials in microgravity - the near-weightless conditions of orbit. Science was a team effort.

AFFIRMATION

My questions deserve room.

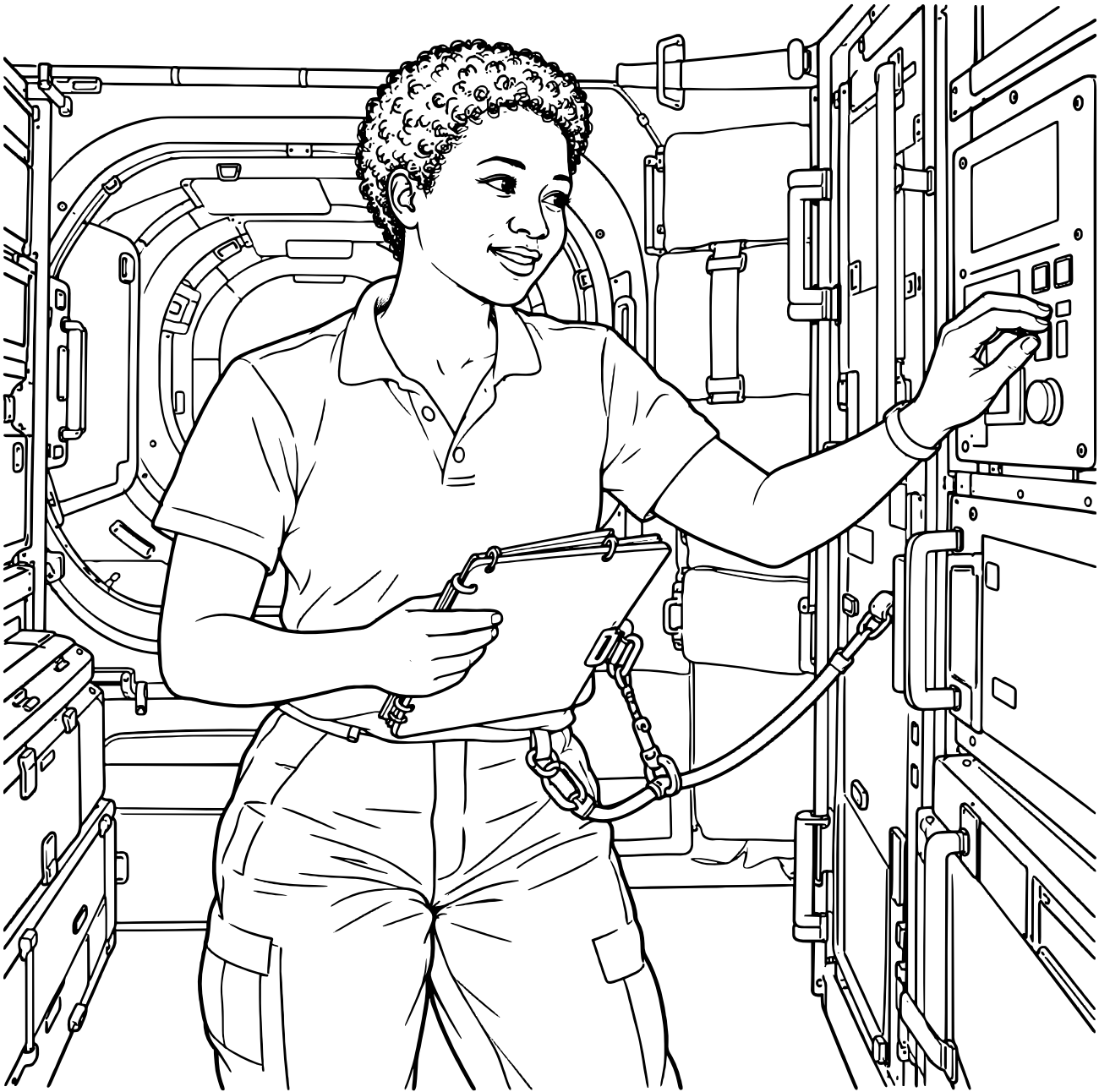
TALK TOGETHER

What would you want to investigate in a space laboratory?

Or sketch an experiment you would try in a space laboratory. Label what you would observe and one question.

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An illustrated interpretation of Jemison at work; equipment is simplified.

Poetry Close to Home

Gwendolyn Brooks • Poet and teacher

THE STORY

Gwendolyn Brooks wrote poems about the lives, hopes, and challenges of Black people, often drawing on her Chicago community. In 1950, her book *Annie Allen* won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry, making her the first Black Pulitzer winner. She also taught and supported other writers, helping more voices find a place in literature.

AFFIRMATION

What I notice can become something I write.

TALK TOGETHER

What ordinary moment in your neighborhood might inspire a poem?

Or write a two-line poem about an everyday moment. Read it aloud, or add a small drawing beside it.

Poetry Close to Home

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Imagined writing scene inspired by Brooks's connection to Chicago. The notebook is blank; no poem or book cover is reproduced.

Patterns Passed Along

The quiltmakers of Gee's Bend, Alabama

THE STORY

Generations of Black women in Gee's Bend, Alabama, have made quilts with inventive patterns and carefully chosen fabrics. Mary Lee Bendolph learned from her mother, and other quiltmakers learned from relatives and neighbors. Their work brings together useful objects, artistic expression, and skills shared across generations.

AFFIRMATION

I can learn from others and add my own ideas.

TALK TOGETHER

What skill would you like someone to teach you?

Or draw an original quilt square using three shapes. Give your pattern a name and explain one choice.

Patterns Passed Along

The quiltmakers of Gee's Bend, Alabama



An imagined gathering inspired by the quilting tradition; the quilt design is original.