

Hi, I'm  
Harriet.



# TALKING HISTORY


with

**Harriet & Roxanne™**

**Black Explorers on Land, Air,  
& Space**


And I'm  
Roxanne.  
Join us for...






Harriet, this is beautiful.  
Why are we here?

Roxanne, we are out here to introduce our next lesson, Black Explorers on Land, Air, & Space.



Let's share some influential explorers that founded cities, explored the wilderness to find trails for settlers, flew in airplanes and explored space.





Wow! This is going to be fun. So, who is the first explorer we are going to study?

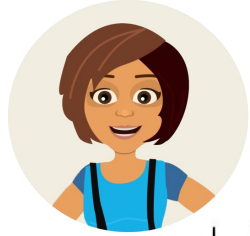
Jean Baptist Point Du Sable (1750-1818). Du Sable was a trader, trapper, and farmer. He claimed 800 acres for a settlement and established a trading post, mill, smokehouse, barn, and other buildings in Illinois.

Did you know that his settlement along the river became Chicago, Illinois? The third-largest city in America!

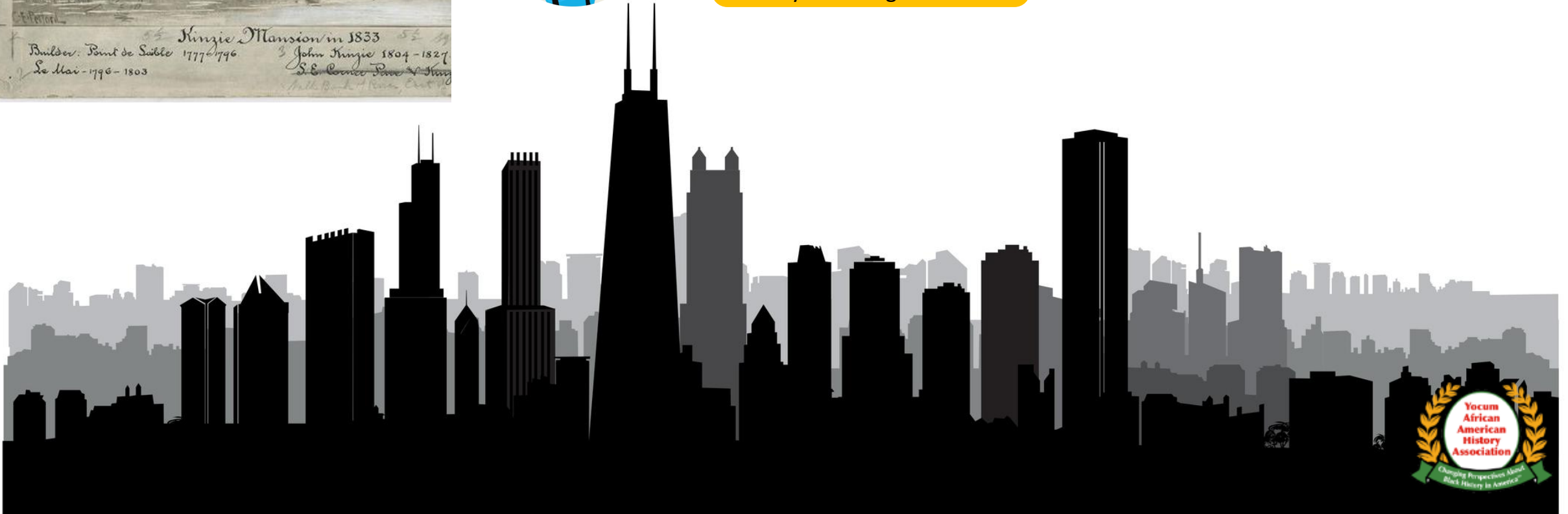
Awesome!




Du Sable first farmed in Peoria, Illinois. When he moved north around the beginning of the Revolutionary War, he quickly became a wealthy man with his trading post and farm. Jean's trading post served explorers, trappers, and Native Americans. In addition, he built a 22 by 40 feet home near the river. In the drawing, dated 1833, you can see he sold his home to John Kinzie; the house was named the "Kinzie Mansion."



Wow, look how big his settlement later became as the city of Chicago!







Our next explorer is Jim Beckwourth (1798-1866). He was one of the best mountain men and explorers of his time. He didn't let any obstacle or challenge get in his way.

Tell me more!



Roxanne, Jim blazed trails across the Rockies and the Sierra Nevada as permanent settlers arrived in the West. He was also a guide and a scout for the army.



That must have been scary to be a guide through the mountains.







This famous explorer, on the right, is **Matthew Henson** (1866-1950). Matthew's experience made him a perfect partner for Commander Robert E. Perry as they explored Greenland and the Arctic. Matthew was 18 when they first met.





Tell me more!



He spent 23 years exploring Greenland and the North Pole with Perry. Matthew was knowledgeable about different cultures & languages and spoke the Inuit language. The Inuit guides were essential in helping them reach the North Pole.

So, in 1909, Matthew and 4 Inuit guides planted a flag at the North Pole. He is now given credit for reaching the North Pole first.



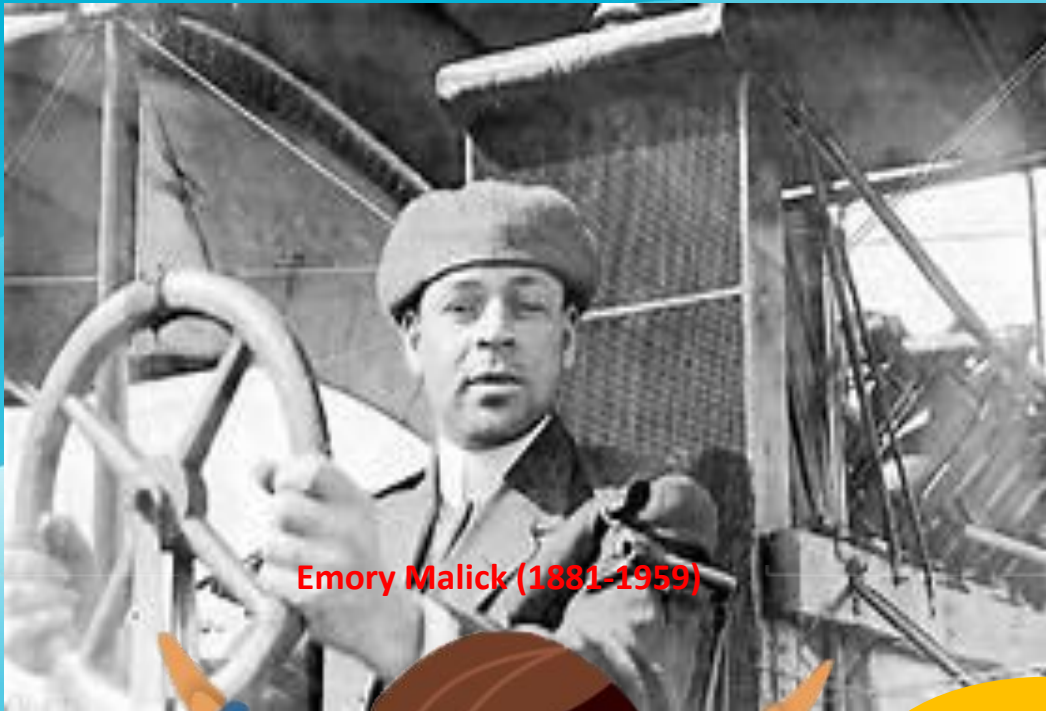




Roxanne, our next explorers were fascinated by the idea of flight. These early pioneers did much to advance aviation. Let's look at some early pilots.







Emory Malick (1881-1959)



Bessie Coleman (1892-1926)



Tell me about Emory and Bessie.



Sure!



Oh, Roxanne, I am so proud of these two flyers! **Emory Malick** (1881-1959) was an aviator, an airplane mechanic, and a carpenter from Pennsylvania. He built his glider and flew it in 1910. By 1912, Emory received his international pilot's license and was an early graduate of Curtiss Flying School. He was the first black pilot to earn a Federal Airline transport license. Bessie's family were sharecroppers in Texas. **Bessie Coleman** (1892-1926) wanted to become a pilot, but no flight schools in the U.S. would admit her because of her race and gender. However, she would not be deterred, so she went to France to obtain her pilot's license. Bessie returned to the U.S. to become a barnstormer and performed dangerous tricks for audiences. She wanted to start an aviation school, but while a passenger in a plane that flipped, Bessie fell to her death as she was not wearing her seat belt.







**Eugene Bullard** (1895-1961) was born in Georgia, the son of a former slave. He sought to escape Georgia's racism and Jim Crow laws in the South. Eugene stowed away on a freighter to Europe and fell in love with France, where he was not restricted by skin color. When WWI broke out, he joined the French Foreign Legion and was wounded twice at Verdun. After his recovery, he was accepted to the Lafayette Flying Corp in 1916. In 1917, he received his pilot's license, an impossibility in America. His plane insignia was "All Blood Runs Red." Bullard served the French again in WWII and was a spy who was fluent in German. He is considered the "Father of Black Aviators."





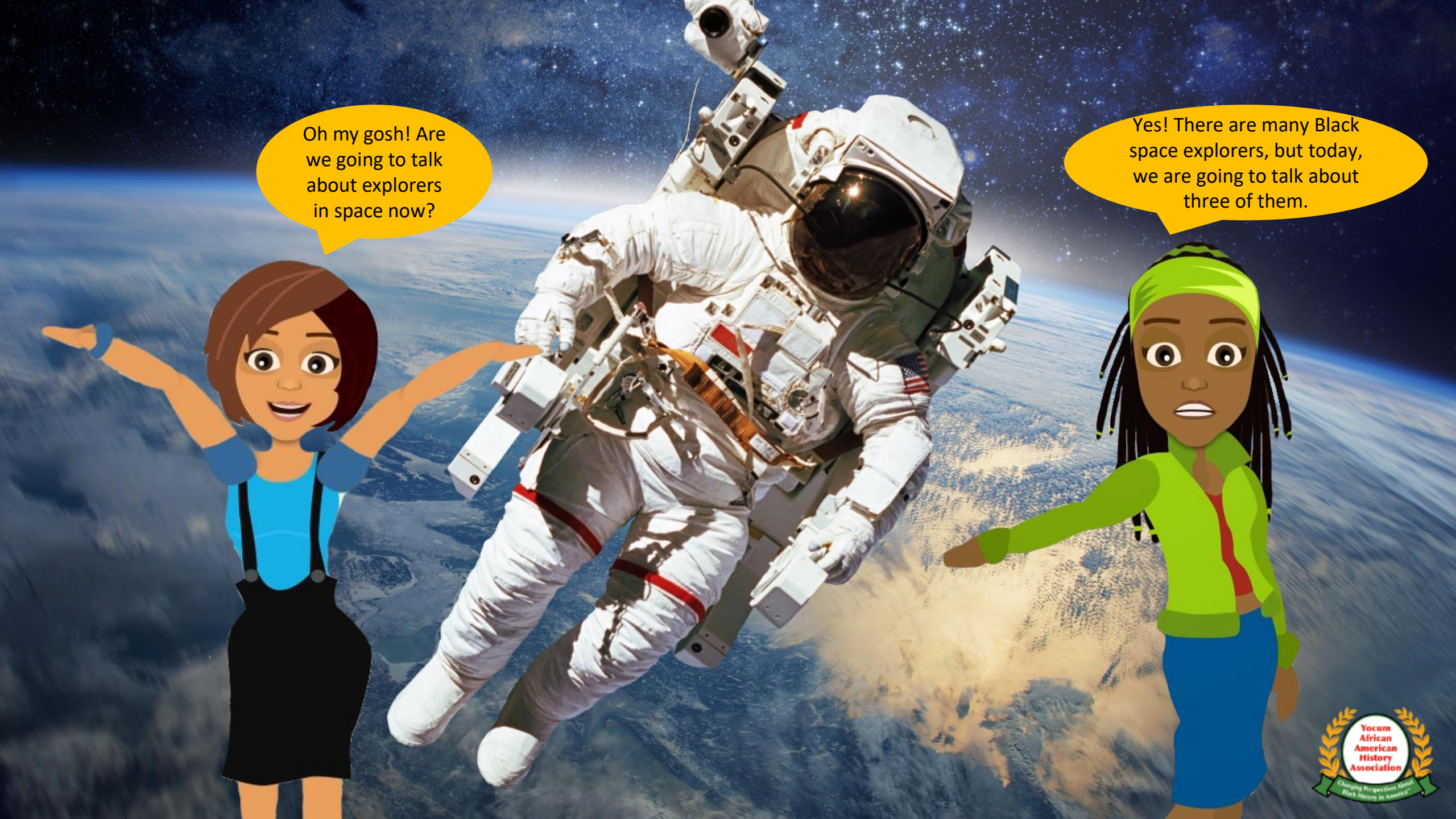
Who are these men?



**Thomas C. Allen** (1907-1989), on the left, and **James Banning** (1900-1933), on the right, made the first continental flight by Blacks from Los Angeles to New York on October 9, 1932. Banning became the first Black pilot to make this flight with his mechanic, Thomas Allen. This accomplishment took them 41 hours and 27 minutes. This trans-continental flight helped open doors for other Black pilots who faced discrimination in aviation.







Oh my gosh! Are we going to talk about explorers in space now?

Yes! There are many Black space explorers, but today, we are going to talk about three of them.





Harriet, this is amazing! Who are we going to study today?



Astronauts Mae Jemison, Guy Bluford, and Ronald McNair.







Mae Jamison (1956 - )



Guy Bluford (1942- )

**Mae Jemison** became interested in the sciences in high school, particularly with biomedical engineering. She entered Stanford University at 16 and later graduated from the School of Medicine at Cornell University in 1981. She applied to NASA in 1986 and completed her training in 1988. Mae was the first Black woman to become an astronaut. Her first flight into space was in 1992.

**Guy Bluford** has a Ph.D in aerospace engineering. He was a pilot in Vietnam and flew 144 missions; he joined NASA in the late 1970s. He was the first Black to travel into space, and as a mission specialist, he made four trips.








Roxanne, sometimes being an explorer can be very dangerous. On January 28, 1986, the Challenger disintegrated miles above the Atlantic Ocean after takeoff. **Ronald McNair** (1950-1986) and six others died. Ronald McNair was an MIT-trained physicist specializing in laser research before joining NASA in the late 1970s. He was the second Black man into space.



An illustration of two women standing in a green field with rolling hills and a blue sky with white clouds. The woman on the left, Harriet, has short brown hair, is wearing a blue shirt, black overalls, and brown boots, and has her arms raised. The woman on the right, Roxanne, has long black braids, is wearing a green jacket, a blue skirt, and green sneakers, and has her hands on her hips. Three yellow speech bubbles contain text.

Oh Harriet, Thank You!  
I learned much about our  
ancestors who fought against  
discrimination while making  
many contributions to  
America.

You are welcome, Roxanne.  
We want everyone to learn  
this fantastic history  
because it is a source of  
inspiration.

Come back soon  
for more "Talking  
History with  
Harriet &  
Roxanne."





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