Mary Jackson (b. 1921) grew up in Virginia and graduated college with a Bachelor’s degree in math and physics. After spending part of her early career as a teacher, she changed paths to become a “computer” (or mathematician) for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), which later morphed into the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Jackson worked on data from wind tunnel experiments as well as data from aircraft and aeronautics experiments.

More information, resources & activities are available at chandra.si.edu/women

*illustration: Kristin DiVona*