

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration




VERA RUBIN



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In the 1970s, astrophysicist Vera Rubin discovered evidence that the Universe was made of more than what could be seen with telescopes –today known as “dark matter”. Born in 1928, Vera was drawn to watching the stars at an early age. Her passion would lead her to become the sole astronomy major in her graduating class at Vassar in 1948. After Princeton denied her admittance to graduate school due to her being a woman – a policy that stood until 1975 – Rubin pursued her advanced training at Cornell and then Georgetown, where she completed a Ph.D. She was a life-long advocate for women in science and scientific literacy.

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

Illustration: Kristin DiVona

