

Black History Month 2020 is also a time to look forward and celebrate the here and now – and the future possibilities. A time when the achievements of Black people in Britain and beyond can be highlighted and celebrated.

**What do you associate
October with?**

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

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Black History Month 2020 is a time for people to come together and hopefully learn lessons for the present and the future. It's a time to honour the commitment to learning and standing united against racism. It's a time to reclaim history and re-imagine how our shared history will be told in the future

In this assembly you are going to watch a couple of clips – one with a clear positive message and one with a hidden message – a barrier if you like.

We will then consider how the positive message was used by the key figures in the second clip.

We will also consider how we can apply the positive message to our lives so that we can overcome any barriers we may face.

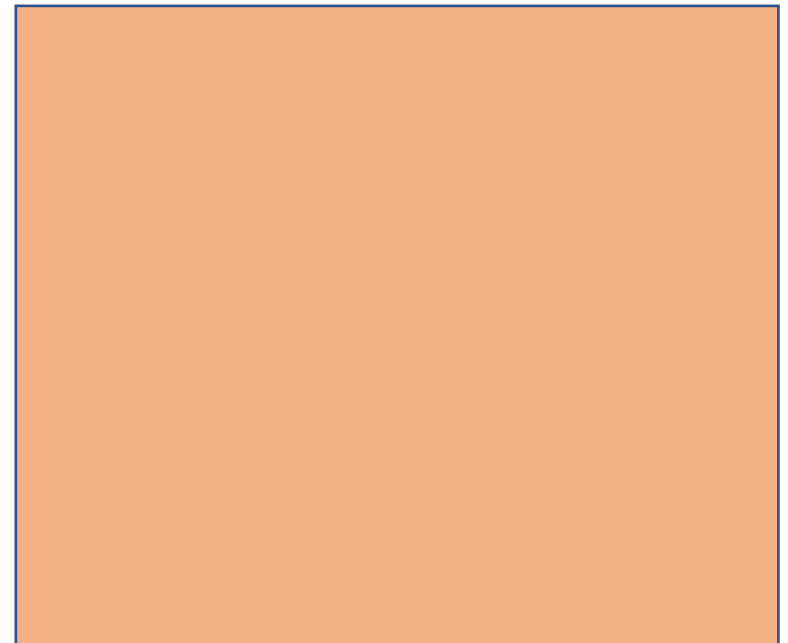
Finally we will consider how we can challenge barriers of race and gender.

HIDDEN FIGURES



PRETTY CURIOUS RESOURCE

BREAKING BARRIERS
ASSEMBLY



HIDDEN FIGURES

NOW LAUNCHED ON TO BLU-RAY,
DVD AND DIGITAL DOWNLOAD



You will watch the EDF Energy trailer for their Pretty Curious campaign.

As you watch it, take note of the adjectives that are shown after 'I'm pretty...'

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Pretty Curious trailer



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FIGURES

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Background to *Hidden Figures*



Hidden Figures tells the **true story** of the African-American women ‘computers’ who used their resourcefulness and ingenuity to help NASA to propel the first man into space.

It is centred around the NASA base in Virginia in the south of the USA in 1961. At this time, American society was **segregated**, the US was involved in the **space race** with the USSR and the feminist movement was in its early days.

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Segregation: A law in the US which meant that African-Americans were separated from other races in society. It was outlawed by the 1964 Civil Rights Act which activists such as Dr Martin Luther King protested for.

Space race: A competition between the USSR and the United States of America to see who could make the most progress with space flight, in order to assert their nation's superiority into space and for national security.

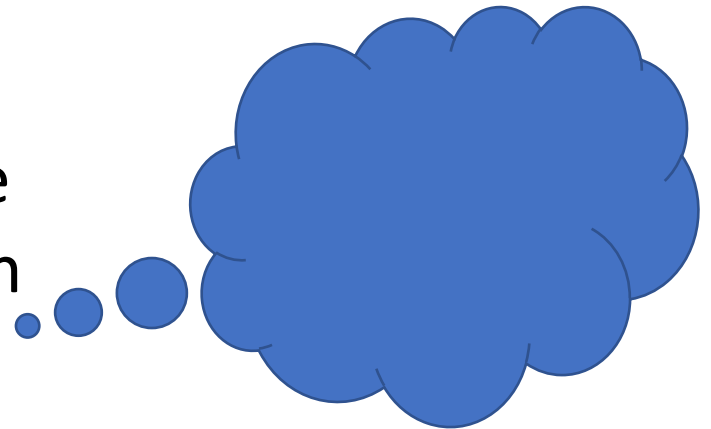
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The film is based on the non-fiction book of the same name by Margot Lee Shetterly, published in 2016.

Why do you think that the true story of these women has been made into a film recently?



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Trailer task



How does the trailer show that the women are:

a) Curious?

b) Determined?

c) Inventive?

d) Focused?

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Hidden Figures trailer



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Reflecting on the trailer



How does the trailer show that the women are:
a) Curious?

b) Determined?

a) Inventive?

a) Focused?

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Curious

eager to know or
learn something



pretty .
C



- Mary Jackson - considers becoming an engineer.

- Dorothy Vaughan wants to learn how to operate an IBM computer.



- Katherine Johnson wants to attend the briefing before she is turned away on account of her gender.



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Determined

having made a firm decision and
being resolved not to change it.



pretty
curious

- Dorothy Vaughan learns how to operate the IBM computers in her free time using a library book.
- Katherine Johnson asks to attend the briefing.



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Inventive

having the ability to create or design
new things or to think originally.



pretty
curious

Katherine Johnson uses her skills to solve the mathematical problem on the blackboard in the meeting.



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Focussed
pay particular attention to.



- Katherine is engrossed in solving calculations.



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- What advice would the characters in *Hidden Figures* give to the girls in the Pretty Curious advert about achieving their goals of working in STEM-related careers?

We would encourage you to work hard towards your dreams, despite any barriers that you may face.



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Breaking barriers



Watch the trailer again and

- Identify the barriers that the women faced that hindered their STEM careers
- **RACIAL:** **GENDER:** **SOCIETAL:**
- Consider how some of the barriers were overcome?
- Consider how we can overcome or challenge barriers we see around us?

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What barriers did the women
face that hindered their
STEM careers?



pretty
curious

Hidden Figures trailer



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**CLICK ON THE IMAGE
ABOVE TO PLAY CLIP**

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- Questioned by the police on their way to work
- The police man being shocked that the African-American women worked at NASA
- The female boss called Katherine 'coloured' and tells her not to be an embarrassment
- Katherine needs to use the segregated bathroom a mile away from the office
- Mary Jackson says that the finish lines are moved just when they are about to get ahead
- The women are expected to put up with poor work conditions on account of their race
- Mary is stared at by students when she enters the college to study engineering
- The African-American NASA workers stand in a separate line from their white colleagues to welcome the astronaut to their base.

- Mary Jackson is told that NASA doesn't accept women in their engineering programme
- The women are called 'girls' by the astronaut John Glenn
- When Katherine enters the control centre somebody presumes that she is the cleaner and not a colleague
- Katherine is warned not to be an embarrassment in the control room as women have never worked in there before.

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SOCIETAL:



- As a working mother, Katherine has to deal with the guilt of being away from her children while working long hours on the space programme
- Mary censors her dreams by saying: “I’m a negro woman, I’m not going to entertain the impossible.”
- The women are expected to be happy to have a job at all despite the barriers and issues that they face.

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FIGURES

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HOW SOME OF THE BARRIERS WERE OVERCOME



pretty
curious

- The trailer shows that Katherine is exceptional at her job and is more reliable than the computer.
- John Glenn the astronaut has faith in Katherine's skills: "Glad to see NASA hasn't given up on good old-fashioned brain power."
- The women are supportive of one another in the workplace and outside which helps them to achieve their goals.

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Breaking barriers



Reflecting on the *Hidden Figures* trailer and your experiences, why do you think the Pretty Curious programme was created by EDF Energy?

Pretty Curious aims to inspire teenage girls to imagine a future where they use STEM – science, technology, engineering and maths – to help make a difference. Currently just one in five people working in core STEM areas today in the UK is a female.

“St Faith’s is pioneering the way forward for Engineering taught at primary level.”

I wonder
what EDF
Energy would
think about St
Faith’s?



Women role models in STEM careers:

Maths: Mrs Rainsford, Mrs Hoole

Science: Mrs Price, Mrs Parker, Miss Gamble, Mrs Huckle,
Mrs Godsall,

IT: Mrs Bucklow

Engineering Mrs Oxborough, Dr Hoyle

- Girls and boys study STEM

What barriers do you face in achieving your goals. What learning can you take from *Hidden Figures* to help them to achieve your dream?

- How can you break barriers, overcome or challenge barriers?



Heavenly Father

We pray for workers everywhere, that they will be able to take pride in the work they do, be treated with dignity and receive a fair wage in return for their labour. We pray for employers, that they will be motivated by compassion which will lead them to recognise and value the uniqueness of their team. We pray for decision makers and world leaders, that they will use the power they have for the good of all people. Finally we pray for ourselves; help us to reflect on our own talents and to share these gifts to benefit our community and the wider world. May we work alongside others with a sincere appreciation of their immeasurable worth.