Mae Jemison: Space Traveler

1 Mae Carol Jemison was born on October 17, 1956, in Decatur, Alabama. Her family moved to Chicago, Illinois, when Jemison was three, to take advantage of better educational opportunities there. Even as a young girl, Mae knew that she wanted to get into space. Eventually, her education and hard work took her into orbit.

2 At the age of 33, Mae Jemison became the first African American woman sent into orbit. The first thing she saw from space was her old hometown of Chicago. How did she reach such heights?

3 Mae set high goals and always worked hard in school, where her favorite subject was science. Jemison graduated high school in 1973 and entered Stanford University at age 16. Then Mae graduated from Stanford University in 1977, receiving a degree in chemical engineering. Next, she went to Cornell Medical College where she obtained her Doctor of Medicine degree in 1981. After getting her medical degree, she served in the Peace Corps as a medical officer in Africa. Shortly after leaving the Peace Corps, she applied to NASA to become an astronaut.

4 After the flight of Sally Ride in 1983, Jemison felt the astronaut program had opened up enough for her to apply. In 1987, Jemison was accepted on her second application and became one of the fifteen candidates accepted. More than 2,000 had applied to be in the program!

5 She still had to wait a little while before launching into space. Her work with NASA before her space shuttle launch included launch support activities at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. She actually worked on the ground to help with the flight of the first launch after the Challenger tragically exploded.

6 On September 12, 1992, Mae Jemison left on the Space Shuttle Endeavor. The flight orbited the Earth for eight days. Mae worked together with Japanese scientists on experiments. She conducted experiments designed to investigate how space flight causes changes in bone cell function to better understand why bones become weaker during space flight.
In 1993, Mae Jemison resigned from NASA. Then, in 1994, she founded the Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excellence, which is named in honor of her mother. One of the projects of Jemison's foundation is *The Earth We Share*, an international science camp where students work to solve current global problems.

Jemison is a Professor-at-Large at Cornell University. She continues to advocate strongly in favor of science education and getting minority students interested in science. She sees science and technology as being very much a part of society, and African-Americans as having been deeply involved in U.S. science and technology from the beginning.

Mae Jemison's dream was to go into space. She worked hard from an early age to make this dream come true. Are you working hard now so that your dream can come true in the future?

1. The information presented in this passage is mainly organized
   - by comparing and contrasting.
   - in chronological order.
   - by cause and effect.
   - with main ideas and support examples.

2. Approximately how much time elapses in this passage?
   - 10 years
   - 100 years
   - two weeks
   - 50 years

3. When was Mae Jemison accepted into NASA?
   - after serving in the Peace Corps
   - when she was in orbit
   - while she was getting her medical degree
   - before she moved to Chicago
Based on the passage, which statement most accurately summarizes space travel?

A. Between 1983 and 1987, only women traveled in space.
B. Between 1987 and 1992, nothing was launched into space.
C. Before 1987, no women traveled in space.
D. Before 1992, an African American woman had not traveled in space.

After Mae Jemison left NASA,

A. she traveled to Africa with the Peace Corps.
B. she went on to receive a medical degree from Cornell.
C. she founded the Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excellence.
D. the Challenger exploded.

What is the main idea of this passage?

A. The space shuttle Challenger tragically exploded in 1986.
B. Sally Ride was the first woman astronaut in American history.
C. Hard work and a good education enabled Mae Jemison to become the first African-American woman astronaut.
D. In 1994, Mae founded the Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excellence.

Being accepted into the astronaut program by NASA would require all of the following character traits except

A. a good education.
B. give up easily.
C. hard work ethic.
D. interest in science.
This passage is mainly about

A. how people get into NASA.
B. why the space shuttle was created.
C. why bones become weaker during space flight.
D. the tremendous accomplishment of Mae Jemison.

Why did the author include paragraph 6 in the passage?

A. to show why bones deteriorate in space.
B. to show how she met the Japanese scientists.
C. to show what Jemison’s job was while she was in space.
D. to show why people shouldn’t travel to space.

In paragraph 3, the author shows how Jemison became

A. a skilled astronaut.
B. highly educated.
C. accepted by NASA.
D. interested in exploring.

From the article, the reader can infer that

A. only people with medical degrees can get into NASA.
B. a person doesn’t need to be highly educated in order to be in NASA.
C. it’s impossible to be accepted by NASA on your first application.
D. much education is required in order to be accepted by NASA.
12. The purpose of NASA is to
   A. train people to become doctors.
   B. train people to become astronauts.
   C. train people to serve in the Peace Corps.
   D. train people to become chemical engineers.

13. Details from the passage seem to suggest that before 1983
   A. all of the astronauts had been men.
   B. an astronaut had never orbited the earth.
   C. all of the astronauts had been women.
   D. space flight was completely safe.

14. Based on the passage, why was Mae most likely chosen to conduct the bone cell experiments?
   A. because she had a bone disease
   B. because she was an African-American woman
   C. the fact that she was a doctor made her uniquely qualified
   D. NASA liked how well she got along with the other scientists

15. Based on details from the selection, which of the following generalizations can accurately be made about space flight?
   A. women are better astronauts than men
   B. for unknown reasons, space flight causes bones to deteriorate
   C. for unknown reasons, space flight causes eyes to deteriorate
   D. all of the scientists that travel to space are Americans

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