Women of NASA

Objective
Students will learn about the experiences of five women currently working in very different roles at NASA.

Introduction
Women have long been employed at NASA, but only in recent years have they enjoyed the same professional opportunities as men. For example, it wasn’t until 1999 that Eileen Collins became the first woman to command the space shuttle! To learn about the new ways that women are contributing at NASA, students will view short video interviews with five women working in different roles within NASA.

Instructions
Students will view the video interviews. A class discussion will follow. Discussion questions for each individual video and the five videos as a whole are included.

In Class Time
45 minutes

Prep Time
15 minutes

Materials
- Computer access
- Photocopies of discussion questions

Videos
- Jennifer Eigenbrode, Geophysicist and researcher at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center http://women.nasa.gov/jennifer-eigenbrode/ (interview length: 4 minutes 23 seconds)
- Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger, Teacher and astronaut on the STS-131 space shuttle mission http://women.nasa.gov/dottie-metcalf-lindenburger/ (interview length: 4 minutes 34 seconds)
- Janet Petro, Deputy Director of the Kennedy Space Center http://women.nasa.gov/janet-petro/ (interview length: 3 minutes 52 seconds)
- Jill Noble, Information technologies specialist at NASA Lewis Research Center http://women.nasa.gov/jill-noble/ (interview length: 3 minutes 23 seconds)
- Tahani Amer, Engineer at NASA Langley Research Center http://women.nasa.gov/tahani-amer/ (interview length: 3 minutes 33 seconds)
Discussion Questions:
1. What is her role at NASA?
2. What did she do before working at NASA?
3. How did she get her job at NASA?
4. What obstacles has she had to overcome?
5. What advice does she offer?
6. What are the similarities between the women’s experiences and attitudes? What are the differences?
7. Are there any similarities between the ways these women came to be employed at NASA?

Extensions
• Researching number of women who work at NASA and the women who hold major roles
• Watching other videos from the Women@NASA site and comparing them to the five included here