Discussion Question Answers
Meet Four Pioneering African American Astronauts

1. How did the astronaut’s backgrounds prepare them for their intensive training and space experiences?
   In understanding physics, they were prepared for the physical phenomenon that happen in space, such as freefall and ideal conditions for Newton’s Laws.

2. Assume that you are an astronaut instructor training Ronald McNair, Michael Anderson, Guion S. Bluford, or Jeanette J. Epps. What advice would you give them?
   The students can come up with their own pieces of advice, which can vary widely but should be based on the conditions of the time period.

3. All four astronauts have a background in physics or a closely related field. What other careers can you think of for which physics might prepare you well?
   There are many examples, some of which are: lawyer, doctor, any research position, working on Wall Street and government work.

4. Compare and contrast this group of astronauts. What do they have in common? What makes each of them different?
   Some main similarities and differences are: there are 3 men and 1 woman. Two died on space flight missions (Ronald McNair and Michael Anderson). Jeanette Epps astronaut (Guion was an Air Force pilot and served in the Vietnam War. Jeanette worked for Ford in their research laboratories).