

Mae Jemison

Let's take a look at a real adventurer!

Mae Jemison.



Mae has done many amazing things in her life, but perhaps the most amazing and important one is that she has been into space – she went on the space shuttle *Endeavour* in 1992. She was the first African-American woman astronaut. For this reason alone we can call Mae an adventurer, but she's done a lot more.

Mae was born in 1956 and when she was a child, she didn't know if she wanted to be a doctor or a dancer. She became a doctor, but she's also danced on stage and has produced several stage shows of modern jazz and African dance.

Mae has travelled all over the world: she went to Kenya, Cuba and Thailand during her studies to be a doctor in the late 1970s. She left university in 1981 and in 1983 she became a member of the

Peace Corps – that's an organisation for young American people to help people in poor countries. Mae worked in West Africa between 1983 and 1985 as a doctor. She has also worked as a general doctor in the United States and she joined NASA in 1987 and became an astronaut.

Not all of Mae's achievements are about hard work. She's written a book and she's also appeared in a television show – she was in an episode of *Star Trek* in 1993. She was the first real astronaut to appear in the show!

1 a Read the text quickly. Why is Mae Jemison famous?

- 1 She's danced and produced stage shows. ☐
- 2 She's appeared in *Star Trek*. ☐
- 3 She was the first African-American woman astronaut. ☐

b Read the text again and put the events from Mae's life in the correct order, 1–6.

- a She went to Kenya and Cuba. ☐
- b She joined NASA. ☐
- c She finished her studies. ☐
- d She appeared in a TV show. ☐
- e She went into space. ☐
- f She joined the Peace Corps. ☐

2 Read the text again and decide if these statements are true (T) or false (F).

- Mae hasn't travelled far. ☐
- 1 Mae's first job was as a doctor. ☐
- 2 She went to West Africa during her studies. ☐
- 3 She became an astronaut when she left university. ☐
- 4 She's worked as an actor for a year. ☐
- 5 All the people in *Star Trek* are astronauts. ☐
- 6 She worked as a doctor in the US. ☐
- 7 She joined the Peace Corps to help poor people. ☐
- 8 She's appeared in a science fiction film. ☐

Make five questions about this Reading (use the other side of this paper)