



## CT Space Grant Consortium Educator Resources for February

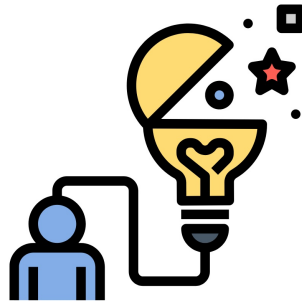


### February is Black History Month

In 2022 NASA recognized the contributions of African Americans to our nation's space programs through the production of *The Color of Space*, an inspirational documentary that tells the stories of Black Americans determined to reach the stars. These groundbreaking individuals served as military pilots, engineers, scientists, and physicians, and more before their space experiences. They have each made history with contributions that include participating in space shuttle missions to perform critical tasks such as deploying and retrieving satellites, performing spacewalks, conducting science and technology research, and piloting and commanding space shuttle missions. African American astronauts played key roles in the assembly of the International Space Station, and today utilize the orbiting lab by performing numerous spacewalks and robotic operations and conducting research as expedition crewmembers. Several have distinguished themselves as senior leaders at NASA, including as the agency's administrator.

**Learn about the contributions  
of African Americans to our  
nation's space programs**

**View "The Color of Space"  
Documentary**



## **National Inventors Day: February 11, 2023**

Inventors Day is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the inventors that have had an impact on our lives. This day has been officially celebrated in the U.S. since 1983 when President Reagan chose February 11th as the date of the holiday to honor the birthdate of Thomas Edison, one of the most prolific inventors the world has ever seen.

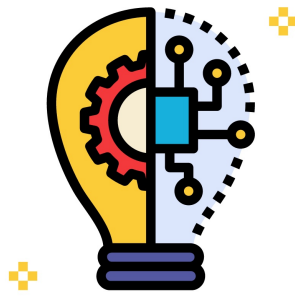
Inventions in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics have revolutionized the world for thousands of years. Early inventions such as the wheel changed the way we traveled and worked. Later inventions such as the printing press or telephones changed the way we communicate and share information. And recent inventions such as the Internet have changed many aspects of modern life, including commerce, education, government, healthcare, and the ways we interact with others.

You can get students excited about inventors when you share information about inventors / inventions that impact the way we live in or look at the world today. You can read about them, watch a documentary, or arrange to talk to a local inventor. You can also encourage the creative process by encouraging students to think of inventions that help with real-world issues.

The National Inventors Hall of Fame has resources for educators who want to encourage students to tap into their creativity through STEM activities. There is also information about inventors and their inventions, plus ways to nominate inventors in your community to be inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

**National Inventors Hall of  
Fame**

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## National Engineers Week: February 19-25, 2023

Engineers don't sit back and watch – they make things happen. If you like tinkering, creating, designing or building, there's likely an engineer inside of you!

Engineers Week celebrates the amazing and influential work of engineers. The purpose to celebrate with students is to show how engineers make a difference in our world, boost awareness of our need for engineers, and support and promote activities that get students interested in engineering. Engineers Week is held each year in February in close conjunction with George Washington's birthday, who many believe to be our nation's "first engineer" with his survey work.

Celebrate budding engineers and the spirit of engineering all week long. Websites like the National Science Foundation or TryEngineering have many free projects and resources for educators who want to bring engineering activities to their students. Resources are organized by student age and/or grade level.

Click on the links below to explore ideas for hands on projects, activities, lesson plans, games, and more.

[\*\*National Science Foundation\*\*](#)

[\*\*TryEngineering\*\*](#)



## Introduce a Girl to Engineering

Introduce a Girl to Engineering, or Girl Day, is a time when volunteers, educators, and others act as role models, facilitate engineering activities, and show girls how engineers change our world. DiscoverE's Despite the Odds research found that this simple formula helps girls develop an interest in engineering, builds their confidence in their problem-solving skills, and creates a STEM identity.

**Learn about #GirlDay**

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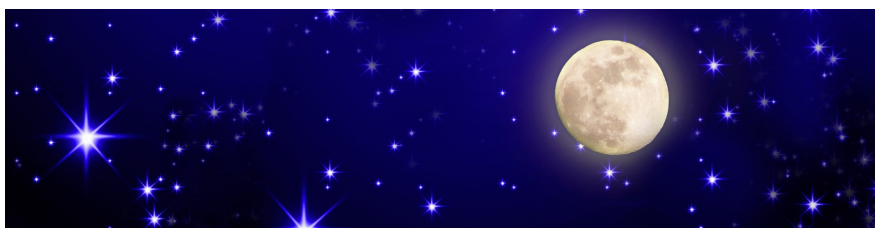


## Watch Astronauts Answer Student Questions

Students around the world are connecting via in-flight downlinks with astronauts aboard the space station for live question-and-answer sessions about living and working in space. See the schedule for upcoming live events and information about when to apply to host a downlink.

**[View Upcoming Schedule](#)**

**[View Past Downlinks](#)**



## Upcoming Lunar/Meteor Events

February 5: *Full Moon*

February 20: *New Moon*

March 7: *Full Moon*

March 20: *Spring Equinox*

March 21: *New Moon*

There are many online resources to find astronomical events. In-the-Sky offers an option to search visibility (i.e. to the naked eye, with binoculars, etc.) and location of events. Click the link below to learn more.

**[In-the-Sky night sky events](#)**

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## What's Coming Up at CTSGC

April 22, 2023: Earth Day

May 5, 2023: National Space Day

October 21, 2023: International Observe the Moon Night

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## Join NASA CONNECTS!

You can join as a formal K-12 educator or as a professional in the informal education (out-of-school time) field. Registered community members will have the opportunity to sign up for engagement events, view and chat with other members who are interested in similar fields, read exclusive NextGen STEM content, and access resources such as lesson plans and interactive media. These members will discover resources that enable further STEM learning in their respective areas.

If you have a Gateway account, click the button below to log in through NASA Gateway, then register to join NASA CONNECTS. If you do not have a NASA Gateway account, you will need to create one before joining this community of practice by clicking the button below and following the prompts.

**Join NASA CONNECTS**

NASA Office of STEM Engagement also maintains resources for K-12 educators, including professional opportunities, resource collections, and activities based on grade levels. To view these resources, visit the NASA STEM Engagement website below.

**NASA STEM Engagement  
Resources for K-12 Educators**



We are always looking to share information with K-12 partners who have a passion for STEM topics. Please forward this email to others who may enjoy the content, and ask them to join our mailing list by clicking the link below!

**Join Our K-12 Mailing List!**



If you are interested in exploring funding for an upcoming STEM program, we invite you to visit [our website](#) for ideas or to apply.

*NASA Connecticut Space Grant Consortium (CTSGC) is a federally mandated grant, internship, and scholarship program that is funded as a part of NASA Education. There are Space Grant Consortia in all 50 states, plus Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico. The mission of the NASA CTSGC is to further the efforts started through NASA's Education Strategic Framework, Lines of Business, and the National Space Grant Program Goals and Objectives. Specifically, NASA CTSGC has three major goals: 1) To establish and promote NASA-related research opportunities that draw on the collaborative strength of private, academic, and government sectors; 2) To support education initiatives that will inspire students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); and 3) To promote workforce development that recognizes the current and future needs of the Connecticut economy.*

### **CT Space Grant Consortium**

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