

# Stars of the Space Race Activities **B1**

## A. Prepare to read.

1. First, look at the pictures and their captions.

Who is the film *Hidden Figures* about?

- 3 astronauts    3 male mathematicians    3 black female mathematicians  
 3 white female mathematicians

2. To understand the text better, match the following words to their definitions.

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| a. an astronaut   | <input type="checkbox"/> 1. A group with exceptional abilities  |
| b. hidden         | <input type="checkbox"/> 2. A small book containing information or arguments in favour of a single subject. |
| c. the space age  | <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Not seen  |
| d. a space rocket | <input type="checkbox"/> 4. The period when travel in space became possible                                 |
| e. an elite team  | <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Someone who travels in space  |
| f. a pamphlet     | <input type="checkbox"/> 6. A vehicle that travels into space.  |

B. Read the “*Star Wars*” box to find information about the 1960s in the world.

- Name of the new war: \_\_\_\_\_
- Names of the 2 blocs: \_\_\_\_\_
- Names of the 2 super powers: \_\_\_\_\_
- What they wanted to show: \_\_\_\_\_
- The biggest competition between them: \_\_\_\_\_

C.1. Read the article and the box to find information about NASA astronauts in the 1960s.

- a. Names: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. They were  men and women    men only    women only    white    diverse  
 discriminated against    recognised
- c. How would you describe them?  ordinary people    pioneers    heroes  
Justify your choice by quoting from the text : \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

2. Now find information about the three heroines of the film.

- a. Names: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. They were  white    black    discriminated against    not discriminated against  
Give two examples to justify your choice: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- c. How would you describe them?  talented    ordinary    exceptional  
Justify your choice by quoting from the text: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Why were they called “human computers”? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**D. The following statements are all RIGHT. Quote elements from the text to prove it.**

1. In the 1960s in America women could not get qualified jobs easily. \_\_\_\_\_

2. They were not considered good at maths. \_\_\_\_\_

3. In the 1960s in Virginia, African Americans didn't have the same rights as white citizens.

**E. Prepare to write.**

1. When you want to compare or contrast, which of the following words or groups of words do you need? Write them in the right column.

however ● more ...than ● as opposed to ● like ● unlike  
● as...as ● although ● in spite of

compare	contrast

2. Now use the words you have classified to write a short text about working for NASA in the 1960s. You can use the prompts if you need help.

The astronauts who worked for NASA in the 1960s were (famous) \_\_\_\_\_

It was (difficult) \_\_\_\_\_ qualified jobs \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ exceptional mathematicians / (not remembered) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ their talents / recognised by \_\_\_\_\_

3. Can you explain the title "Hidden Figures"?

4. Can you suggest another title?

**F. Writing.**

**Imagine you are working for a film magazine. Write a short presentation of Hidden Figures to make your readers want to see it.**

**Before you start writing, fill in this mindmap with notes to help you plan your presentation**

