

## THE JOURNEY OF BLACK PEOPLE IN S.T.E.M

Did you know that out of all those working in the field of STEM only 9% are Black, yes, 9%! That's crazy considering how intelligent we are! When I heard about this competition I thought it would be great to talk about us Black people making it in STEM so let's chat.

People here might be wondering,

“What even is STEM and why do we have to talk about it?”

Well S.T.E.M stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. I love math. And that's pretty odd for an 11-year-old. But you might still be thinking,

“That's what it stands for but why do we need it?”

S.T.E.M is incredibly important believe it or not! Without S.T.E.M there might not be Doctors or Architects or Teachers or even games! I know, that sounds terrifying, a life without doctors or games! So there you have it, that's why we need S.T.E.M! But let's begin to talk about Rebecca Lee Crumpler. She is the reason most Black girls in her time worked hard for their dreams. Rebecca was the first Black woman to graduate from medical school in the U.S. She practiced medicine, with a focus on women and children, despite facing intense racism and sexism. She also provided medical care to freed slaves. That's so cool! She's a real inspiration to me and other Black girls. By the way, do you remember the beginning of our talk? I mentioned that only 9% of people in S.T.E.M are Black. “Why is that?”

“Why is it so incredibly difficult for Black people to work in S.T.E.M?”

There's a really simple answer, it's just plain discrimination and that's why our ancestors worked so incredibly hard to get us to where we are today but even with that racism and discrimination didn't just disappear, sadly we still have to work harder than most other races to get fair treatment in society, and we have to face it discrimination will never completely disappear. We will always have to work extra hard and that most likely will not change. But just remember

“If you find something that makes you happy, success will follow from there”- Temitope Abiagom.

That quote reminds me to explore more things and find something that makes me happy because success will follow from that, and the best example of that quote is former NASA astronaut Mae C. Jemison, she always wanted to become a scientist since she was young and did you know she got her inspiration from star trek?! Mae is such an inspiration, in 1992 she picked up the phone and applied for NASA but considering she was a Black woman she got rejected plenty of times

before she finally made it in and became the first African American woman to travel in space! Mae is one of the rare notable Black women in S.T.E.M I personally look up to her and hope to make an impact on the world like she did! Thank you for listening!

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Souces:

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