

Nichelle Nichols

Impact on Space and Entertainment

Nichelle Nichols was a famous actress and activist who made important changes in both entertainment and space exploration. Born in 1932 in Chicago, Illinois, Nichelle grew up during a time when it was hard for people of different races to be treated equally. Even though there were many obstacles, Nichelle was determined to follow her dreams and make a difference.

Nichelle Nichols is best known for her role as Lieutenant Uhura on the popular TV show *Star Trek*. When the show started in 1966, it was special because it included an African American woman in a key role. Nichelle played Uhura, a smart and strong communications officer who was part of the spaceship crew. Her role was important because it showed people that anyone, no matter their background, could be a hero.

One of the most memorable moments in *Star Trek* history happened in 1968 during an episode called "Plato's Stepchildren." In this episode, Uhura and Captain Kirk, shared the first interracial kiss on American TV. This was a important because it showed viewers that people of different races could have close relationships and be treated equally. It was a brave step forward in making TV more inclusive.


At one point, Nichelle Nichols thought about leaving *Star Trek* because she was unhappy with the limited roles for African American actors. However, she had a meeting with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who was a huge fan of the show. Dr. King told her that her role was very important for changing attitudes and being seen on TV. He said, "You are changing the way people see each other and you are making a difference." Dr. King's words inspired Nichelle to stay on the show and continue her important work.

In the 1970s, Nichelle worked with NASA, the American space agency, to help recruit astronauts from different backgrounds. NASA wanted to include more women and people of colour in its astronaut program, and Nichelle used her fame to encourage these young people to think about careers in space. She worked with NASA leaders to make the astronaut program more open to everyone. Nichelle's efforts helped to change the way people viewed space travel and inspired a new generation of astronauts.

One of Nichelle Nichols' proudest achievements was helping Dr. Mae Jemison, who became the first African American woman to travel into space in 1992. Nichelle's support and encouragement played a big part in helping Dr. Jemison achieve her dream and opened the door for more astronauts from different backgrounds. Nichols' impact went beyond TV and inspired many to follow their dreams.

Throughout her life, Nichelle Nichols received many awards for her work in TV and space exploration. Her story shows how one person can make a big difference by breaking down barriers and inspiring others. Nichelle Nichols' legacy reminds us all that we should believe in ourselves and work hard to create a world where everyone has a chance to succeed.

1. **Why was Nichelle Nichols' role as Lieutenant Uhura on *Star Trek* important?**
2. **What was special about the kiss between Uhura and Captain Kirk in the episode "Plato's Stepchildren"?**
3. **Why did Nichelle Nichols initially think about leaving *Star Trek* and what did Martin Luther King Jr. say to encourage her to stay?**
4. **How did Nichelle Nichols help NASA in the 1970s?**
5. **What did Nichelle Nichols do to support Dr. Mae Jemison's journey into space?**


Use the dictionary  to find the meanings of these words and then use them in a sentence.

Word	Definition
Activist	
Memorable	
Interracial	
Limited	
Recruit	
Backgrounds	

Word	Use it in a sentence
Activist	
Memorable	
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Backgrounds	

If you would like different questions or words to define, then use these next two pages to create your own. Use Split and Merge to make your perfect resource.

Don't forget you could also ask Questions AI to write questions for you based on the reading comprehension.


Use the dictionary  to find the meanings of these words and then use them in a sentence.

Word	Definition


Word	Use it in a sentence


Name: _____ Date: _____

Nichelle Nichols

Use the Voice Comment Tool  to explain the following: **Name, Date of Birth and Date of Death.**

Use the Media Tool  to insert an image of Nichelle Nichols.

Use the Media Tool  to insert a YouTube video about Nichelle.

Use the Text Tool  to provide four facts about her life and background.

Why do we celebrate her?

Famous Quote:

Why did you choose to research Nichelle?

Create a timeline of Nichelle's life

Who or what influenced her in her life and work?

How is she remembered or thought of today?