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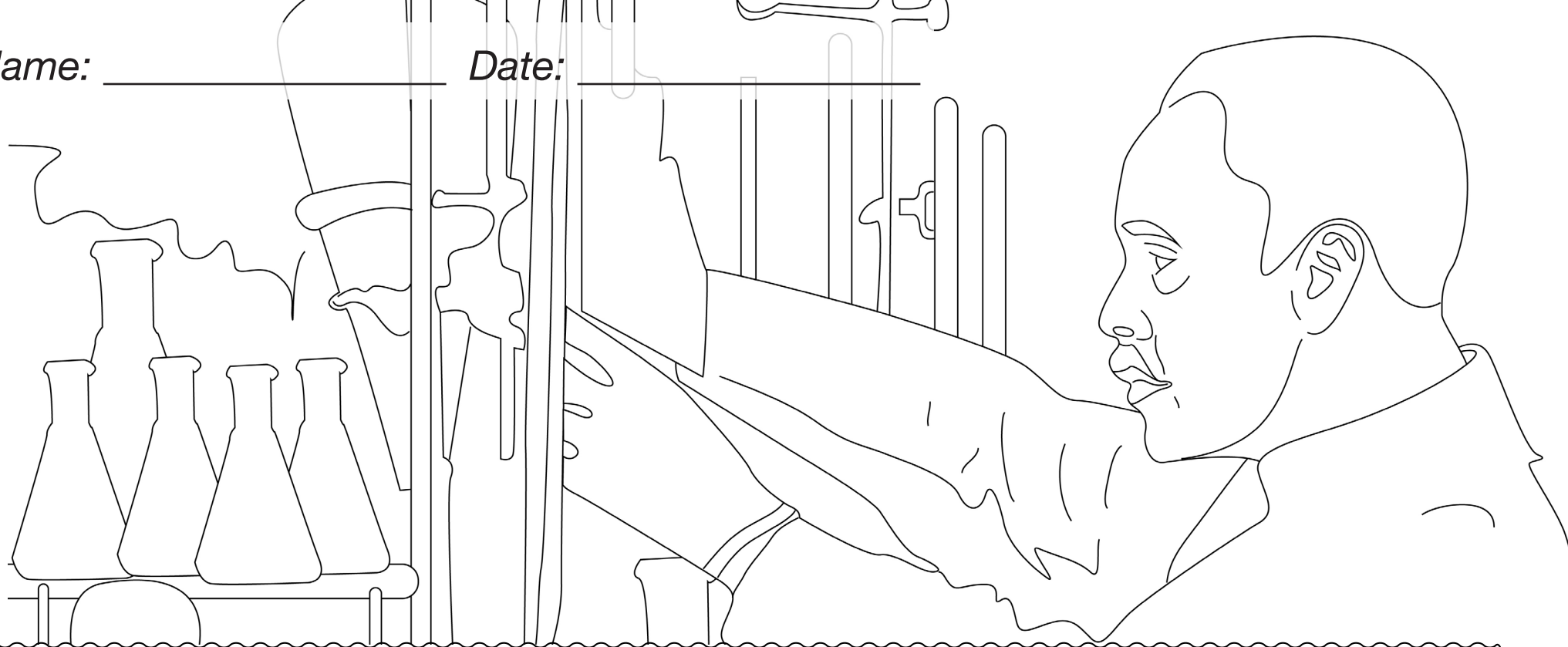


John Coltrane

September 23, 1926 - July 17, 1967

- American jazz saxophonist and composer.
- Lovingly known as “Trane”.
- Helped pioneer the use of modes and was later at the forefront of free jazz.
- Led at least fifty recording sessions, and appeared on many albums by other musicians, including trumpeter Miles Davis and pianist Thelonious Monk.
- One of the most influential saxophonists in music history.
- Coltrane said of his music, *“I would like to bring to people something like happiness. I would like to discover a method so that if I want it to rain, it will start right away to rain. If one of my friends is ill, I’d like to play a certain song and he will be cured; when he’d be broke, I’d bring out a different song and immediately he’d receive all the money he needed.”*
- Ordained as St. John Coltrane in the African Orthodox Church.
- Received a special Pulitzer Prize in 2007.

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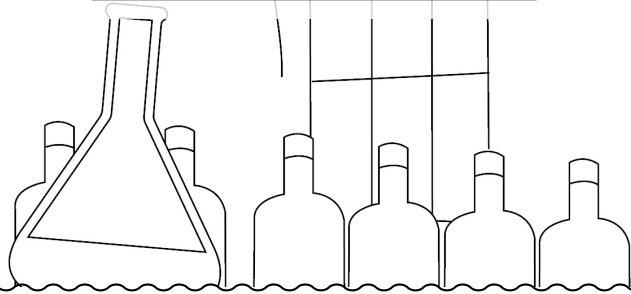
Percy Julian

April 11, 1899 - April 19, 1975

- **Research chemist and pioneer in the chemical synthesis of medicinal drugs from plants.**
- **First to synthesize the natural product physostigmine used to treat glaucoma and a pioneer in the industrial large-scale chemical synthesis of human hormones.**
- **His work laid the foundation for the steroid drug industry's production of cortisone, other corticosteroids, and birth control pills.**
- **Started his own company to synthesize steroid intermediates from the wild Mexican yam.**
- **Received more than 130 chemical patents.**
- **One of the first African-Americans to receive a doctorate in chemistry; first African-American chemist inducted into the National Academy of Sciences.**

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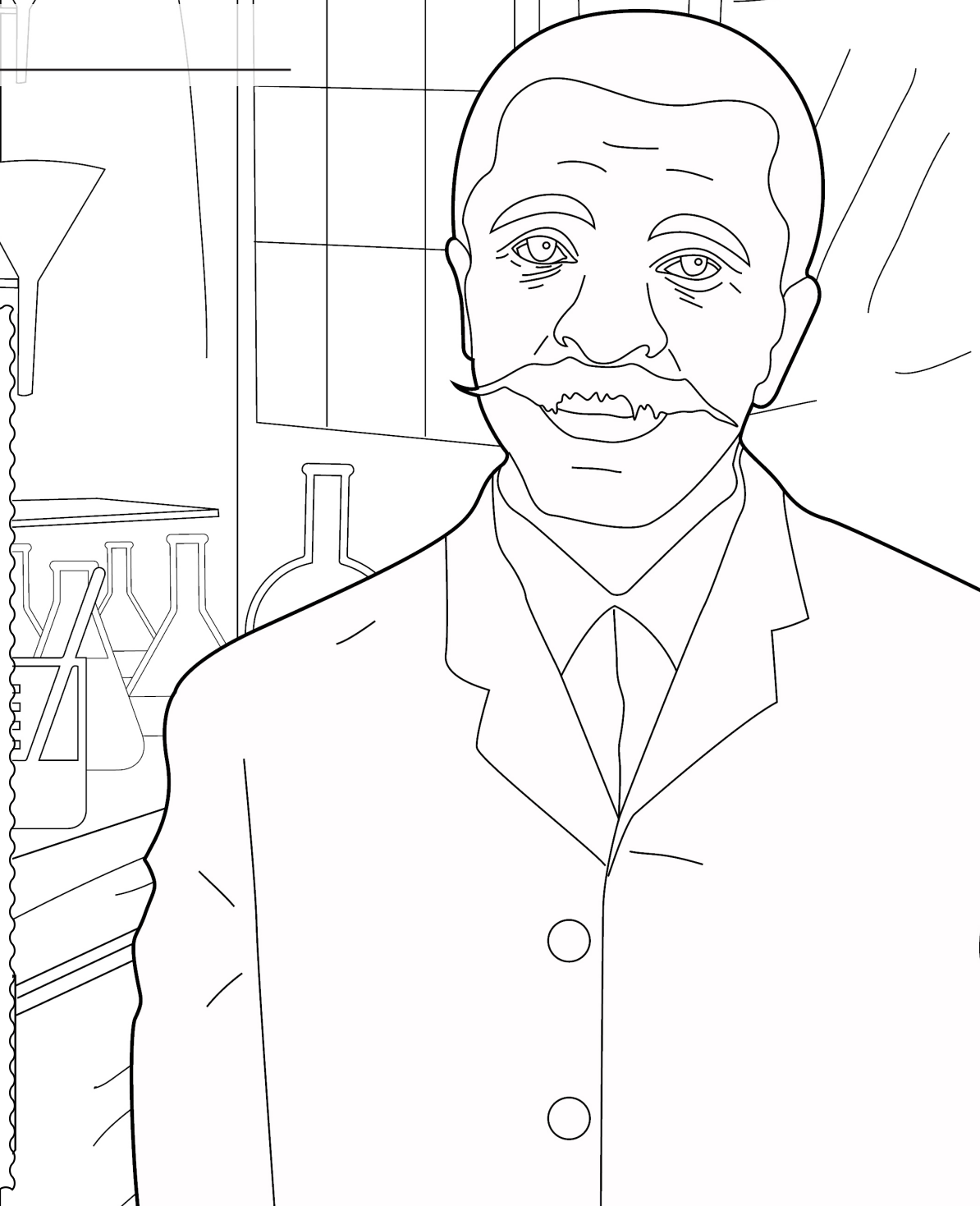
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George Washington Carver

c.1861 - January 5, 1943

- During his time, Carver was one of the most prominent inventors and scientists.
- Using the peanut, Carver discovered over 300 products, which included plastics, gasoline, and dyes.
- As a great plant biologist, Carver made many groundbreaking discoveries, focusing on certain crops such as sweet potatoes, peanuts, pecans, and soybeans.
- In 1916, Carver was given a rare honor for any American by becoming a member of the British Royal Society of the Arts.
- He became the first African American to have a national monument dedicated to him.
- Carver's laboratory was located at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.



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Katherine Johnson, Mary Jackson and Dorothy Vaughan

In 2016 the story of Katherine, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson was told in the box office smash Hidden Figures.



Katherine Johnson

August 26, 1918 - Present

- Graduated from college at the age of 18, double majoring in Mathematics and French.
- Started working for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) in 1953 when she learned they were hiring African American women to be their “computers.”
- After NACA became NASA, Katherine was selected to be one of the people to try to figure out how to get humans into space and worked backwards in order to make sure the calculations would work.
- Worked on the calculation to help get the Apollo astronauts home from the moon.
- In 2015, then President Barack Obama honored Katherine with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which is the highest honor for United States civilians.



Mary Jackson

April 9, 1921 - February 11, 2005

- Hired by NACA (NASA) in 1951 as a human-computer in the West Computers area.
- Moved to the Compressibility Research Division of NACA in 1953.
- Considered resigning due to separate and unequal lodging. A supervisor heard her complaints and invited her to work for him and to take engineering classes.
- She was eventually promoted to aeronautical engineer, historically making her NASA's first African American engineer.
- Co-authored a report at NASA titled, Effects of Nose Angle and Mach Number on Transition on Cones at Supersonic Speeds in 1958.
- In the 1970s, Jackson began focusing on helping other minorities and women advance in their careers as the Federal Women's Program Manager in the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs.



Dorothy Vaughan

September 20, 1910 - November 10, 2008

- Was able to attend Wilberforce University due to a full college scholarship.
- Hired by NASA (then called NACA) in 1943 as a human computer, a position she thought was temporary.
- In 1949, Dorothy was appointed supervisor of the West Area Computing Unit, making her the first African American woman promoted in the organization.
- Because of her promotion, Dorothy became the first African American supervisor in NASA.
- Helped NASA with flight calculations for Apollo 11 and Project Mercury alongside Katherine Johnson and Mary Jackson.