

# Ron McNair: From Library Desegregationist to Challenger Mission Astronaut

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**Grade Level** 2  
**Duration** 1 class period

## National Standards

### GEOGRAPHY

#### Element 2: Places and Regions

6. That people create regions to interpret Earth's complexity.

#### Element 4: Human Systems

10. The characteristics, distribution and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics.  
11. The patterns and networks of economic interdependence.

## AZ Standards

### ELA Common Core Standards

#### Reading

#### Literature

#### Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

**2.RL.7** Use information gained from the illustrations and words in a print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of its characters, setting, or plot.

#### Writing

#### Text Types and Purposes

**2.W.1** Write opinion pieces in which they introduce the topic or book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply reasons that support the opinion, use linking words (e.g., because, and, also) to connect opinion and reasons, and provide a concluding statement or section.

## Arizona Social Science Standards

### GEOGRAPHY

**Human-environment interactions are essential aspects of human life in all societies.**

2.G2.2 Describe how human activities affect the communities and the environment of places or regions.

### HISTORY

**The development of civilizations, societies, cultures, and innovations have influenced history and continue to impact the modern world.**

2.H1.1 Explain how individuals can make contributions to a civilization and/or culture in place or region studied.

### CIVICS

**Citizens have individual rights, roles, and responsibilities.**

2.C2.2 Explain how all people, not just official leaders, play important roles in the world.

## Overview

The library is the heart of a community. In the segregated world of South Carolina in the 1950's, only white people could have library cards. In 1959, nine-year old Ron jumped up on the counter insisting he be able to check out his books. By resolving this matter peacefully, he was able to learn how to pursue his dream of being a pilot.

## Purpose

In this lesson students will learn about what libraries can offer a community and write an opinion piece as to why libraries should be available to all people.

## Materials

- Book Ron's Big Mission by Rose Blue and Corinne Naden.
- <http://www.avondalelibrary.org/>

(Website from your local library that shows activities and services it provides.)

- Ron's Big Mission worksheet and Answer Key

## Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Describe the importance of local libraries and opine as to why regions should have them.
2. Discuss how Ron McNair contributed to equal rights for all citizens of the U.S. by retelling the plot of this book.

## Procedures

1. Ask students if they have ever been to their local (city, county, or state) library.

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2. Discuss what they did there and if they participated in any activities. List these on the board.
3. Share Ron's Big Mission with them.
4. Talk about how his demonstration in the library changed Ron's life.
5. Go to your local library website and look at the services it offers.

### Assessment

Mastery will be 80% or higher on the Ron's Big Mission worksheet for a reading grade. Paragraph(s) will be graded for introduction, two reasons, and a conclusion. A score of 4 or higher on the 6 Traits Writing Rubric in the area of Organization will be considered mastery of the writing standard. Giving at least 1 reason why having a library card benefits the person or community will be considered mastery of the geography and civics objectives.

### Extensions

Take a field trip to your local library. Find out what you need to get a library card.

Invite your local children's librarian to your classroom and have them talk about library events and services.

Read Richard Wright and the Library Card and compare and contrast the two books.

Design a bookmark that includes what libraries can do for you!

### Sources

Blue, Rose and Corinne Naden. Ron's Big Mission. New York: Dutton's Children Books, 2008.

Website from your local library that shows activities and services it provides.