

READING PI:

**Grades
4 & 5**

EXPLORERS

Nonfiction Comprehension Program

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READING PI

Nonfiction Comprehension Program

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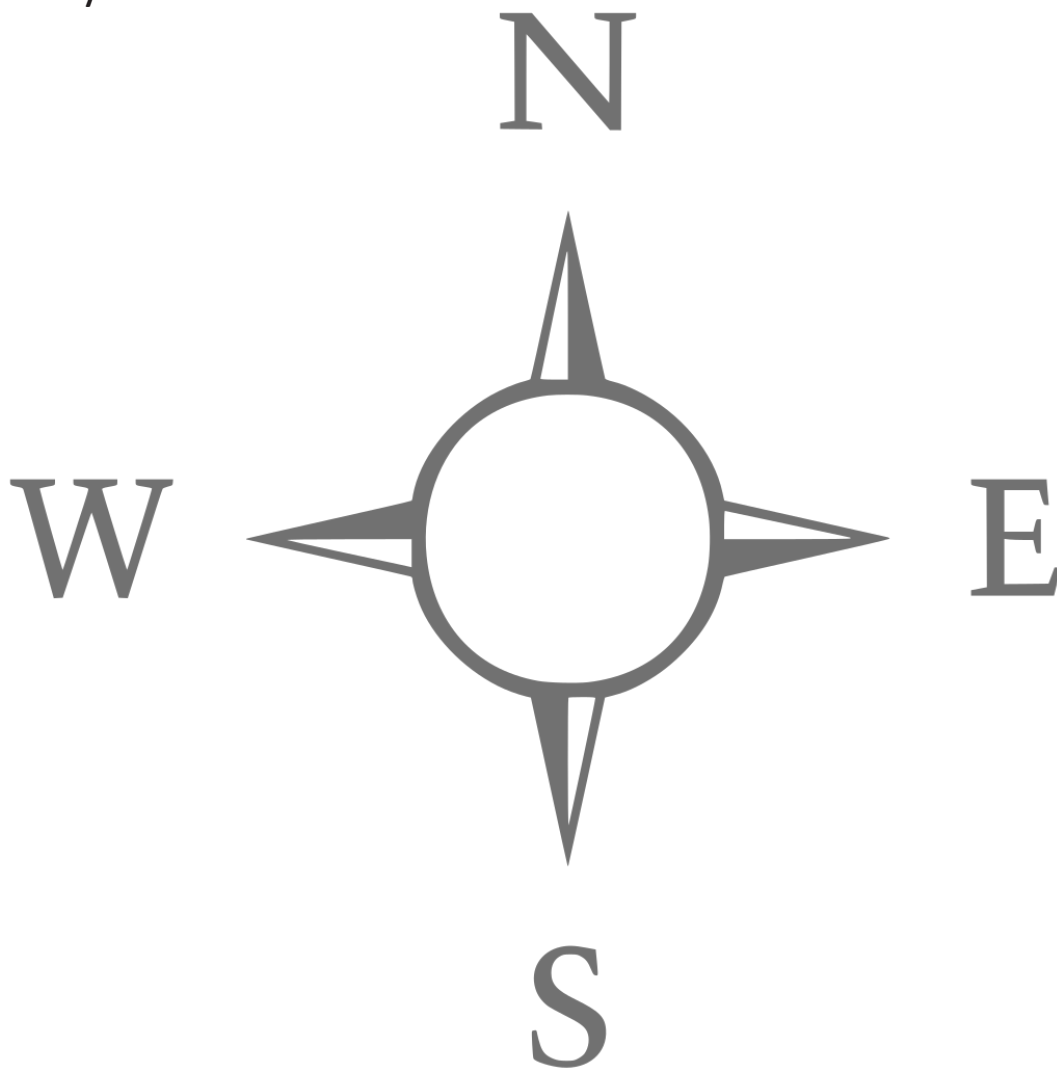
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Guy Bluford

Guy Bluford, Jr. is **famous** because he was the first African American **astronaut**! Bluford worked hard his entire life to accomplish his goals and set an example for others. Since Bluford's first trip to space, 19 other African Americans have become astronauts.

Bluford was born in Pennsylvania in 1942. His parents taught him to work hard to reach his goals. When he was young, Bluford built toy airplanes. He wanted to build machines when he grew up. So, he worked hard in math and science classes.



Guion "Guy" Bluford.

Up, Up, and Away

After college, Bluford joined the United States Air Force. He flew airplanes. But Bluford wanted to fly higher. He wanted to fly to outer space. So, he worked hard to become an astronaut. He finally got the job in 1979. He was going to fly in outer space!

In 1983, Bluford **boarded** the space shuttle and blasted off on his first space mission. Bluford laughed the whole way up! After coming back down to Earth, Bluford flew on three other space missions. His job on these missions was to fix machines. In 1997, Bluford was added to the International Space Hall of Fame.



A space shuttle launch in Cape Canaveral, Florida

Guy flew 4 missions on the Space Shuttle Challenger. The poster below honors the shuttle.



Guy exercises on a treadmill during his mission in space!

