

## Valerie L. Thomas, Satellite Image Technology



Valerie L. Thomas' early curiosity in technology led her from self-education in electronics as a child to pioneering work at NASA. Despite the lack of encouragement in high school due to gender biases, Ms. Thomas pursued Physics at Morgan State University, becoming one of only two women in her class to major in Physics. Excelling in her studies, she secured a role at NASA as a mathematical/data analyst.

At NASA, Ms. Thomas played a key role in managing the development of NASA's image-processing systems for "Landsat," the first satellite to transmit multi-spectral images from space to study the Earth's resources from outer space. Ms. Thomas was also instrumental in employing a concave mirror for which she received a patent in 1980. NASA continues to use this technology today. Ms. Thomas' journey from a young enthusiast to a technological innovator highlights her remarkable contributions to science and space exploration.

To read more of Ms. Thomas' contributions: <https://lemelson.mit.edu/resources/valerie-thomas>