

Name _____ Date _____



[1] Jewel Plummer Cobb was a research scientist and developed **chemotherapy** treatments for **cancer** that are still used today. She later became an academic **administrator** and advocated for women and Black and Latinx people in higher education.

[2] The great-granddaughter of Maryland slaves, Jewel was born in 1924 in Chicago, Illinois. Both her father and grandfather were educated scientists. But Jewel was born in an era of segregation when race mattered more than class and upbringing. In the 1930s, Jewel lived in a **segregated** community and attended all black public schools in Chicago. Jewel's parents taught her to read at an early age. Her interest in science was helped along by her access to her father's library of scientific journals and magazines.

[3] As a teenager, Jewel became fascinated with **biology** after studying **cells** through a **microscope**. She thought it was amazing to use a scientific instrument to see the tiny elements that make up our skin, hair, organs, and bones. However, she was forced to attend a less academically rigorous high school due to segregation. Jewel got good grades, but she was worried that the quality of her education wouldn't be enough to prepare her for college. She responded by taking an entire extra year of biology classes.



[4] After high school, she attended the University of Michigan, but was once again limited by segregation. Jewel remembered, "I was forced to live in a dormitory that was segregated, all the black students lived there. It became very difficult for me at that time. I didn't like the idea of living in a certain part of Ann Arbor where only black students could live." She decided to transfer to Talladega College in Alabama, a historically black college, and graduated in 1944.

[5] Jewel then applied to graduate school at New York University but was rejected and **discriminated** against because of the color of her skin. She recalled that "Even then, NYU was considered to be... very much **biased** against blacks and anybody who was black would be considered something wrong with them one way or another." But Jewel stuck to her guns; she went to the university in person, demanded an interview, and impressed the biology professors so much that she was given a fellowship. She earned her Master's Degree and Ph.D. in cell biology from NYU.

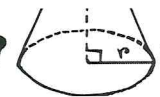
[6] Over the years, Dr. Cobb did research in many different laboratories. She examined the effects of chemotherapy drugs on human cells infected with cancer. She learned information that was used to create new and more effective cancer fighting tools.

[7] She came to Connecticut in 1967, becoming a dean and professor at Connecticut College. She focused her research on studying how ultraviolet light from the sun can damage skin cells and lead to **melanoma**, or skin cancer.



[8] Though she began as a cellular biologist, she eventually transitioned into working as an educator and administrator in an effort to bring more women and people of color into the sciences. She once said in an interview, "I moved to administration without any regrets. At the time period, I felt I could make more changes and be more influential." She created and modeled programs to make sure that women and **minorities** would have access to positions that were traditionally held by white males.

[9] When she accepted the position of President at California State University at Fullerton, Dr. Cobb became the first black female president of a college west of the Mississippi River. In this position, she was able to develop programs specifically for minorities to increase their academic achievements. Cobb's work increased the number of women and people of color moving into the STEM fields. She passed away in 2017 at age 92.



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[1] Jewel Plummer Cobb was a research scientist. She developed **chemotherapy** treatments for **cancer** that are still used today. She later became an **administrator** at a university. She helped more women and Black and Latinx people go to college.

[2] Jewel was the great-granddaughter of slaves. She was born in 1924 in Chicago, Illinois. Both her father and grandfather were educated scientists. In the 1930s, Jewel lived in a **segregated** community where only black people lived. She attended all black public schools that got less funding than the all white schools.

[3] As a teenager, Jewel became fascinated with **biology** after studying **cells** through a **microscope**. She thought it was amazing to use a scientific instrument to see the tiny elements that make up our skin, hair, organs, and bones. However, she was forced to attend a segregated high school with fewer resources than the all white schools. Jewel got good grades, but she was worried that the quality of her education wouldn't be enough to prepare her for college. She responded by taking an entire extra year of biology classes.

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[6] Over the years, Dr. Cobb did research in many different laboratories. She studied the effects of chemotherapy drugs on human cells infected with cancer. She learned information that was used to create new and better cancer-fighting tools.

[7] She came to Connecticut in 1967, becoming a dean and professor at Connecticut College. She researched how ultraviolet light from the sun can damage skin cells. This leads to **melanoma**, or skin cancer.

[8] Though she began as a cellular biologist, she eventually transitioned into working as an educator and administrator. She wanted to bring more women and people of color into the sciences. She once said in an interview, "I felt I could make more changes and be more influential" as an administrator. She created programs to make sure that women and **minorities** would have access to jobs as researchers. These jobs were traditionally held by white males.

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[3] As a teenager, Jewel became interested in **biology**. She looked at **cells** through a **microscope**. She liked seeing the tiny pieces that make up the human body. However, her school was segregated. It had fewer resources than the all white schools. Jewel got good grades, but she was worried that she would not be ready for college. She took an entire extra year of biology classes to be prepared.

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[6] Over the years, Dr. Cobb did research in many different laboratories. She studied human cells infected with cancer. She learned that certain drugs, a treatment called chemotherapy, stopped the cancer. Her research helped fight cancer.

[7] She came to Connecticut in 1967, becoming a professor at Connecticut College. She researched how ultraviolet light from the sun can damage skin cells. This leads to **melanoma**, or skin cancer.

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[9] Dr. Cobb became President at California State University at Fullerton. There, she developed programs that increased the academic achievements of minorities and women. Cobb's work increased the number of women and people of color moving into the STEM fields. STEM means science, technology, engineering, and math. She passed away in 2017 at age 92.





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[1] Jewel Plummer Cobb was a scientist. She did research on treatments for **cancer** that are still used today. She later became an **administrator** at a university. She helped more women and Black and Latinx people go to college.

[2] Jewel's great-grandparents were enslaved. Jewel was born in 1924 in Chicago, Illinois. Both her father and grandfather were scientists.

[3] As a teen-ager, Jewel became interested in **biology**. She looked at **cells** through a **microscope**. She liked seeing the tiny pieces that make up the human body. However, her school was **segregated** and had fewer resources than the all white schools. Jewel took extra biology classes to be prepared for college.

[4] After high school, she went to the University of Michigan. She was forced to live in a segregated dormitory. Jewel remembered, "I didn't like the idea of living where only black students could live." She decided to go to Talladega College in Alabama. Talladega College is a historically black college. Jewel graduated in 1944.

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[6] Dr. Cobb worked in many different laboratories. She studied human cells infected with cancer. She learned that some drugs stopped the cancer. This treatment is **chemotherapy**. Her research helped fight cancer.

[7] Dr. Cobb came to Connecticut in 1967. She became a dean and professor at Connecticut College. She researched how ultraviolet light from the sun can damage skin cells. This leads to **melanoma**, or skin cancer.

[8] She became an administrator. She was one of the people in charge of the college. She wanted to bring more women and people of color into the sciences. She created programs to make sure that women and **minorities** would have access to jobs as researchers. These jobs were traditionally held by white males.

[9] Dr. Cobb became President at California State University at Fullerton in 1981. She was one of the first black women to be president of a university. She developed programs that increased the academic achievements of minorities and women. Dr. Cobb died in 2017 at age 92.





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[1] Jewel Plummer Cobb was a scientist. She did experiments to find out how to treat **cancer**. She later was in charge of a university. She helped more women and Black and Latinx people go to college.

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[5] Jewel then applied to graduate school at New York University. She was rejected because of the color of her skin. She experienced **discrimination**. But Jewel stuck to her guns. She went to the university in person and demanded an interview. The biology professors decided to accept her into the university. She earned her Master's Degree and Ph.D. in cell biology from NYU.

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[4] Jewel wanted to go to New York University. She was rejected because of the color of her skin. She experienced **discrimination**. But Jewel didn't give up. She went to meet the professors. They liked her very much. She was accepted into the university. She became a doctor!

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[7] Dr. Cobb became the President of California State University at Fullerton in 1981. She was one of the first black women to have this job.