

# CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History Month! Let's take a look at a few African American inventors whose contributions helped revolutionize the way we use electricity and essential devices that power life.

Read the descriptions of each inventor and their contributions, then choose the best answer to complete the description.



## Annie Easley

Annie Easley started her career in 1955 as one of the first African Americans at NASA (when it was called the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics), essentially acting as a human computer, performing manual computations for researchers. Annie was a gifted programmer and developed computer code that was used to analyze \_\_\_\_\_ energy projects, as well as batteries for early hybrid vehicles.

- A.** nuclear      **B.** wind and solar      **C.** geothermal

*Annie Easley broke down barriers for women and people of color in STEM fields and won the admiration and respect of her coworkers.*



## Lewis Howard Latimer

Lewis Latimer worked with Thomas Edison on the development and commercialization of the incandescent light bulb. He invented a method to manufacture \_\_\_\_\_ filament to make lightbulbs mass-producible. His method was patented in 1882.

- A.** carbon      **B.** hydrogen      **C.** silicon

*Without Lewis Latimer's contributions, our lives would never have been so bright!*



## Marian Croak

Marian Croak began her career at Bell Laboratories (now AT&T) and patented more than 200 inventions. One of her greatest contributions was VoIP, or Voice over Internet Protocol. VoIP technologies are essential for today's fast-paced digital world. VoIP allows voice functionality over an \_\_\_\_\_, including helpful features for video calls and mobile messaging.

- A.** airwave      **B.** audible barrier      **C.** internet connection

*Marian Croak's passion for advancing technology has improved our digital capabilities and overall quality of life.*



*Source: New America*

**Answer Key** | Annie Easley: B, Lewis Howard Latimer: A, Marian Croak: C

Sources: Dept. of Energy, Lewis Latimer House, NASA