Dr. Patricia Era Bath

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Grade: 5
St. Columbkille

This is a slideshow for what I learned about Patricia
About Patricia

- Born on November 4, 1942, in Harlem, New York
- Her dad was Rubert Bath, he was the first black motorman for the New York City subway system
- Her mom was Gladys Bath, a housewife and domestic worker who used her salary to save money for her children's education
- She had no siblings
- Today she is 75 years old
- Her husband is Benny J Primm and her daughter’s name is Freka Patty Jane Bath
What Patricia Bath do?

- Patricia Bath is the first African American to complete a residency in ophthalmology in 1973.
- Two years later, she became the first female faculty member in the Department of Ophthalmology at UCLA’s Jules Stein Eye Institute.
- Then, she invented the Laser phaco Probe for cataract treatment in 1986.
- She was one of the first African-American female doctors to receive a medical patent in 1988.
- A laser phaco probe is a harnessing laser technology, the device created a less painful and more precise treatment of cataracts. With her Laser phaco Probe, Bath was able to help restore the sight of individuals who had been blind for more than 30 years.

This is how Patricia is so important in history.
Bath headed to Hunter College, where she earned a bachelor's degree in 1964. She then attended Howard University to pursue a medical degree. Bath graduated with honors from Howard in 1968, and accepted an internship at Harlem Hospital shortly afterward. The following year, she also began pursuing a fellowship in ophthalmology at Columbia University.
How others mistreated Patricia

Racism, and relative poverty were the obstacles that she faced as a young girl growing up in Harlem. There were no women physicians, and surgery was a male-dominated profession; no high schools existed in Harlem, a predominantly black community; additionally, blacks were excluded from numerous medical schools and medical societies; and, her family did not have the funds to send Patricia to medical school.
How I think about the world differently because of Patricia

I think of the world differently now because of how Patricia was treated. People judged Patricia because of racism. I wouldn’t want anyone to be treated like Patricia was treated.

Dr. Bath makes me believe that anyone can do anything, no matter what you look like.