

# Mary Golda Ross

## Scientist of the Month

- First known Native American woman to become a certified, professional engineer
- Born near Tahlequah, the capital of Cherokee Nation
- Helped design fighter jets in World War II
- Worked as an engineer at Lockheed, where much of her work involved preliminary concepts for space travel

**“To function efficiently in today’s world, you need math. The world is so technical, if you plan to work in it, a math background will let you go farther and faster.”**

**“Math was more fun than anything else. It was always a game to me.”**

**“Perfection can be achieved by no one, because perfection is achieved from faults—yet faults tear away the perfection in you.”**

Learn more at:

- [Mary Golda Ross: Aerospace Engineer, Educator, and Advocate | National Air and Space Museum \(si.edu\)](https://www.si.edu/explore/mary-golda-ross)
- [Mary G. Ross \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/marygoss)
- [Mary Ross: A Hidden Figure | NASA](https://www.nasa.gov/feature/mary-golda-ross)