

## All About: Black Girl MATHgic

Brittany Rhodes, Black Girl MATHgic's founder, started Black Girl MATHgic after being a math tutor for over 15 years and noticing too many students lacking confidence in and mastery of basic mathematics, especially female students. Because studies continue to show that girls are much less confident in their math abilities than boys, Ms. Rhodes started Black Girl MATHgic to help address this disparity and show kids, especially girls, that math can be fun and make sense!

Black Girl MATHgic is the first and only monthly subscription box designed to increase math confidence and decrease math anxiety in girls on a 3rd-8th grade math level. The magic (or MATHgic) of each is in the woman mathematician featured in each month's box. Each featured woman has a math degree or a degree with some type of math concentration. These amazing women's math accomplishments are turned into a real-world theme to show kids how math is all around us. Some of the boxes' real-world themes include:

- **“Road Trippin”** – travel math
- **“Shop ‘Til You Drop”** – fashion + shopping math
- **“Doctor’s Appointment”** – doctor math
- **“Love Your Hair”** – hair + salon math
- **“Do It For The ‘Gram”** – social media math
- **“Game Night”** – the math in games
- **“Secure The Bag”** – business math + real estate math
- **“Relax, Relate, Release”** – yoga and relaxation math



Dr. Gladys West is the mathematician whose calculations (done by hand!) helped create the GPS. She recently turned 90 years old and released her memoir, “It Began With A Dream.”

Dr. Gloria F. Gilmer, 91, is a pioneer of ethnomathematics, which she defines as “math of the people.” Ethnomathematics approaches math education through the environmental experiences of the learner, rather than those of the teacher. In the ‘80s, Dr. Gilmer visited hair salons in Harlem, NY to study the mathematics of hair braiding. She studied the tessellations, the patterns in various hairstyles. She also made history as the first Black person to teach high school mathematics in the Milwaukee Public School System, first Black woman on the Board of Governors of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA), and the first Black woman to receive a Ph.D. from the School of Education at

Marquette University, among others. Can you guess which theme was Dr. West’s and which theme was Dr. Gilmer’s?



If you're interested in learning more, you can check them out at [blackgirlmathgic.com](http://blackgirlmathgic.com) or on Instagram and Facebook at [blackgirlmathgic](https://www.facebook.com/blackgirlmathgic), or Twitter at [blkgirlmathgic](https://twitter.com/blkgirlmathgic). Here's to helping our children strengthen the math confidence they need to succeed in class today and society tomorrow!

Photos credit: *Morgan McDonald (redbymorgan.com)*