Super Scientists



Maggie Aderin-Pocock

Space Scientist, Inventor and Science Educator

The Story of Maggie Aderin-Pocock

1.

Maggie Aderin-Pocock was born in London on 9th March 1968.

When she was 3 years old, she loved watching the Clangers, a TV programme about creatures who live in space. Inspired by their adventures, Maggie became fascinated by space, our solar system and the universe and dreamed of going into space too!

2.

Maggie's parents separated when she was 4 years old. Sometimes she lived with her mum and sometimes with her dad. Over the next fourteen years, she ended up going to thirteen different schools and never really felt like she fitted in.

When asked, she never said she was British, even though she was. She always said that she was Nigerian, although she had never been to Nigeria. She was scared that if she claimed to be British, she would be told that she had the wrong skin colour and should go back to where she came from. Maggie always felt that she would be happy out in space where race doesn't matter and our planet can be seen as a sphere, without boundaries.

3.

Maggie has dyslexia and although she enjoyed school, she didn't find it easy. Despite the fact she struggled with reading and writing, she found that she was good at working out the relationships between things and seeing the big picture. Her parents always told her to work hard and to follow her dreams – so that's what she did.

When she was 15 years old, Maggie saved up her pocket money and bought her first telescope. Unfortunately, it did not work as well as she expected so she decided to make her own. Determined as always, she joined a telescope-making evening class. She was the only female in the class. Over many months, she made a working telescope and began studying the stars.

Super Scientists



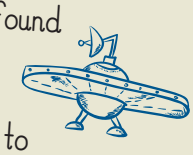
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4.

Following her dream took Maggie to university. She met many scientists who inspired and encouraged her. University gave her the chance to investigate the things that interested her the most, including the way things work, space and our galaxy. Maggie began to believe that with as many as 300 billion stars in the galaxy, there must be aliens out there somewhere!

During her studies, she often found that she was the only black female in the room, but this just made her more determined to succeed. She eventually left university with qualifications in Physics and Engineering.





5.



After university, she went on to invent special scientific equipment for huge telescopes, so scientists can see far into space. She also invented parts for special satellites, to measure wind-speed and help us understand more about climate change. She has presented TV programmes including 'CBeebies Stargazing' and 'The Sky at Night'. She has written lots of books and wants to help us understand our amazing universe and the 300 billion stars that make up our galaxy. In 2009, Maggie was given a very special award by the Queen for everything she has done to educate people about science.

6.

Today, as well as continuing with her space research, Maggie spends much of her time travelling the country exciting school children about the wonders of space. She tells her audiences that she still dreams of reaching the stars and believes that by having a crazy dream you overcome hurdles. Maggie's message to everyone is 'Have a crazy dream!'

