

SCIENCE CHARACTERS:

Promoting the voices of underrepresented groups in STEM*

Despite an increasingly diverse America, specific groups are overrepresented in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) in the United States.

There are many reasons why a more diverse STEM community helps everyone:

- Science/STEM is a human endeavor. Who does STEM changes the direction of discovery and centers the experiences/ideas of those planning what comes next.
- Diverse ideas strengthen science and bring more possibilities to the table.
- Making it hard for talented scientists, mathematicians, and engineers to live up to their potential and missing out on new discoveries that could change - or save - lives!

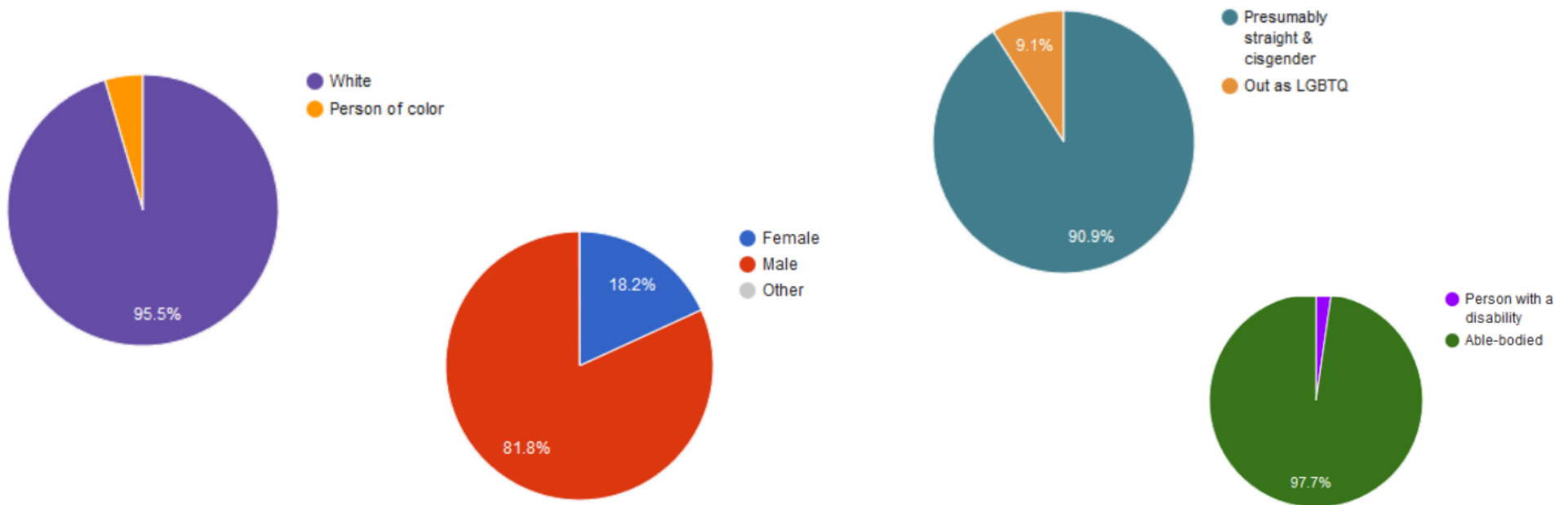
As one part of this project, 6th grade students have learned about the story of one lesser-known scientist that comes from a group underrepresented in STEM. The posters you see here are a result of their research and creativity!

*Underrepresented = The percentage of working age people with that identity in the U.S. population is lower than the percentage of people known to be working in the U.S. STEM fields with that identity. Includes (but is not limited to) people of color, people with disabilities, LGBTQ people, and women.

Why this project?

One major obstacle facing people of color, people with disabilities, LGBTQ people, and girls interested in going into STEM is a lack of role models.

When SAAS 6th graders were asked to name three scientists...*



*These graphs do not include family members ("my mom") & friends ("my friend Jed"), because their identities weren't known

By doing this project, students both gained knowledge about a particular scientist's work and were able to share their story with the school community. Please linger to read and learn about some of these inspiring people in STEM!