

# HENRIETTA LACKS



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### TOBACCO FARMER

Although she is not a scientist, she has unknowingly played a role medical research. While being treated for cancer in 1951, her doctor took a sample of her cells (without asking for permission). Now known as the HeLa cell, it is the most common "immortal cell" and has been reproduced for decades. Scientists used her cells to create the polio vaccine, as well as research cloning and genetic mapping.

**Date of Birth:** August 1, 1920

**Birthplace:** Roanoke, Virginia



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