**Part 1: Ernest Everett Just Biography**

Ernest Everett Just was born to Charles Frazier and Mary Matthews Just in Charleston, South Carolina on August 14th, 1883 and died on October 27th, 1941. Just’s mother believed that his education was too valuable to live in the south so he moved to New Hampshire to attend Kimball Hall Academy. Just was described as a very inquisitive and bright young student with an eagerness to learn. He had many hardships growing up such as being poor, losing his father to alcoholism at a four years old, being raised by a single mother, and then losing his mother during his sophomore year in high school. Through these many hardships he still continued to pursue the greatest education he could obtain with hopes of becoming a professor.

Just attended Dartmouth College in which he found his passion for science. In 1907, Just graduated magna cum laude with honors in zoology, botany, history, and sociology, became a Rufus Choate scholar, and co-founded Omega Psi Phi (a historic black fraternity). Right out of college, Just became a professor of English at Howard University, a year later he was teaching biology as well. In 1909, Just spent the summer (and every summer after this) at the Marine Biology Laboratory (MBL) in Woods Hole, Massachusetts; this is summer was the pinnacle of his scientific career. While at MBL he investigated the fertilization of marine invertebrate eggs and embryos. In 1910 he became the biology department head and in 1912 he became the zoology department head at Howard University. In 1916, Just obtained his Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Chicago where he pioneered many areas of physiology including fertilization, experimental parthenogenesis, hydration, cell division, dehydration in living cells and ultraviolet carcinogenic radiation effects on cells ([www.biography.com](http://www.biography.com)).

From 1920 to 1931, Just wrote over 50 scientific papers based on his 20 years at MBL, including his most important textbook, *Biology of the Cell Surface* in 1939. Just was also a Rosenwald Fellow in biology of the National Research Council which allowed him to expand his research to Europe. In 1940, right after this return from Europe, Just was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and died the following year. Just was a tremendous man who was well respected in the scientific, educational, and Black communities. Just’s legacy of education and science has positively impacted the biological community in which his research and inventions are still being used today.

