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### **Elbert Cox Worksheet**

Elbert Cox was born on December 5, 1895 in Evansville, Indiana to Johnson and Eugenia Talbot Cox. Elbert Cox earned his A.B. from Evansville College in 1917. Cox served in the Army in World War I after graduation. After returning home Cox applied for admission to Cornell University in 1921. He was accepted and in 1925 earned his PhD. Elbert Cox was the first African American to earn his PhD in mathematics. It is interesting to note that in 1925 only 28 PhD's were awarded throughout the country but 31 black men were lynched that year. Elbert Cox died November 28, 1969.

Do the exercise below to get an idea of the math that Elbert Cox worked on.

- 1.) Create a sequence.
- 2.) Write a difference equation to model the sequence.
- 3.) Attempt to find a solution to your difference equation.

### References

Mathematicians of the African Diaspora. Elbert Cox. Web address  
[www.math.buffalo.edu/mad/PEEPS/cpx\\_elbertf.html](http://www.math.buffalo.edu/mad/PEEPS/cpx_elbertf.html)