

Astronaut Sally Ride

When Sally Ride was just 9 years old, her family toured Europe for an entire year and then returned home to Encino, California. Once back at school, Sally wanted to be a winner in sports and at school. In her teens she was a champion junior tennis player. She was ranked number eighteen among the best young tennis players in the country when she was 18.



Sally always liked studying science. When she went to college she studied astrophysics. Astrophysics is the science of stars and planets. She liked great literature too. She graduated from college with two degrees. The other degree was in English. She stayed longer in college and became Dr. Sally Ride. She was a specialist in astrophysics.

Sally was interested in joining NASA as an astronaut. She was chosen as one of six women in the astronaut class in 1978. She studied at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. She learned how to fly military jets as part of her training.

In 1982 Sally Ride was selected to go on the second *Challenger* space flight. She would be the first American woman to go into space. Sally ride spent six days in space orbiting the earth.

Later Sally Ride said, "The thing that I'll remember most about the flight is that it was fun. In fact, I'm sure it was the most fun that I will ever have in my life."



Name: _____

Multiple Choice

Circle the correct answer.

1. Where did Sally Ride's family tour when she was nine years old?

- a. The United States
- b. North America
- c. Europe

2. In what sport was Sally Ride a champion?

- a. Softball
- b. Tennis
- c. Swimming

3. What was Sally Ride's favorite subject in high school?

- a. History
- b. Science
- c. Social studies

4. Who selected Sally Ride for astronaut training?

- a. NASA
- b. NOAA
- c. USGS

5. Sally Ride was an astronaut on which spacecraft?

- a. *Challenger*
- b. *Endeavour*
- c. *Enterprise*



Name: _____

Short Answer

1. Locate the state of California and the state of Texas on a map of the United States.
2. What is astrophysics?
3. Find out what it means to be called Doctor or Dr. if a person is not a medical doctor or a dentist.
4. NASA is an abbreviation. Find out what NASA means.
5. Find out who the Johnson Space Center was named for. Why is the space center in Texas?
6. Are you interested in space or being an astronaut? Explain why or why not.



Answer Key

Multiple Choice

1. c.
2. b.
3. b.
4. a.
5. a.

Short Answer

1. Individual response
2. Astrophysics is the science of stars and planets.
3. Some people study a long time in college and become experts. When they complete all the studies needed to be experts they can be called doctors in their subject.
4. NASA means National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
5. The Johnson Space Center is named for President Lyndon Johnson. Johnson's home state was Texas.
6. Individual response

