

A Ride in Space

By Kate Paixão



Sally Ride always loved science and sports. In high school, she thought about becoming a tennis player. Her love of science won out, however. Ride went to college and studied physics, a branch of science.

In 1978, Ride saw an ad in a newspaper for an exciting job: astronaut! The position was at NASA, the United States government agency that runs the country's space program. Eight thousand college students applied. Only twenty-five were accepted. Sally Ride was one of them.

While training at NASA, Ride helped develop a robotic arm to use in space. She went on her first space shuttle trip on June 18, 1983. She was the first American woman to travel in space. Flying on a rocket was dangerous and difficult. It took courage to fly into space. But when Sally Ride returned to Earth from her six-day shuttle trip, she said, "It was the most fun I'll ever have in my life."

Ride left NASA in 1987 to teach science. She later started her own company, Sally Ride Science. She wanted to excite girls and boys about working as scientists.

Sally Ride's courage and dedication to science inspired people around the world.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What job did Sally Ride see an ad in the newspaper for?

- A) teacher
- B) scientist
- C) astronaut

2. The article describes a sequence of events in the life of Sally Ride. Which event happens last?

- A) Sally Ride helps develop a robotic arm to use in space.
- B) Sally Ride starts her own company.
- C) Sally Ride becomes the first American woman to travel in space.

3. Sally Ride always loved science.

What evidence from the article supports this statement?

- A) Sally Ride studied physics in college and became a science teacher in 1987.
- B) When Sally Ride returned to Earth from her six-day shuttle trip, she said, "It was the most fun I'll ever have in my life."
- C) In high school, Sally Ride thought about becoming a tennis player.

4. Sally Ride loved science and sports. Based on the information in the article, what else did she probably enjoy?

- A) teaching
- B) writing
- C) reading

5. What is the main idea of this article?

- A) Sally Ride started her own company to excite boys and girls about working as scientists.
- B) Sally Ride's love of science led her to accomplish many things.
- C) Sally Ride went on her first space shuttle trip on June 18, 1983.

6. Read this paragraph from the article.

"Sally Ride always loved science and sports. In high school, she thought about becoming a tennis player. Her love of science won out, however. Ride went to college and studied physics, a branch of science."

What does it mean that Sally Ride's love of science "won out"?

- A) Sally Ride won a science contest after losing a tennis game.
- B) Sally Ride thought about becoming a tennis player.
- C) Sally Ride chose to pursue science instead of sports.

7. Most of the students who applied to NASA were not accepted, _____ Sally Ride was.

- A) so
- B) because
- C) but

8. What was Sally Ride the first American woman to do?

9. According to the article, what two things about Sally Ride inspired people around the world?

10. Explain why Sally Ride might have inspired people around the world. Support your answer with at least one example from the article.
