



Cool Career

Astronaut Sally Ride

Founder of Sally Ride Science

Net Gain for Science

Even when she was a little girl, Sally Ride loved sports and science. She kept her eye on the ball—playing tennis, volleyball, and football in the street with the neighborhood kids. She also kept an eye on the stars and planets—using a small telescope her parents gave her. Even though Sally led her college tennis team, she chose not to continue competing in tennis. Instead, she studied physics at Stanford University.

Two Firsts

Sally launched into history in 1983. She became the first American woman to fly in space and NASA's youngest astronaut. "I had an unbelievable opportunity to do something very few other people have a chance to do," she said. Sally launched her own science company, which she led until her death in 2012. The company's mission is to encourage students' interest in science, and to inspire them to reach for the stars.

NASA Now Higher-ing!

Sally landed her astronaut job after responding to an ad NASA placed in the school newspaper at Stanford. "The moment I saw the ad, I knew that's what I wanted to do—to go on that adventure," Sally said.

An astronaut travels into space to explore our world and beyond. Astronauts come from many different backgrounds, including aviation, engineering, science, and teaching. And they use their different skills in space. Sally controlled the Shuttle's robot arm. **Other astronauts**

- > conduct experiments inside the space station.
- > release satellites into space.
- > study Earth's oceans, weather, and geology.



"Astronauts are on a timeless quest. Exploration is as central to our lives as breathing."

After you read about Sally Ride, do these activities.

Build Your Own Team

Living and working in space is challenging. Astronauts rely on their training and teamwork. And they rely on each other's strengths, including their backgrounds in math and science. List some of your strengths that you could use as an astronaut. Work with other students to mix and match strengths and build a mission team. Then come up with a mission plan. What would the goals of the mission be? What responsibilities would each team member have?

My strengths: _____

My team: _____

My mission plan: _____

Good Company

Science isn't just a subject—it can lead to many different careers. If you started your own science company, what sort of company would it be? What would it do? Write a paragraph describing your science company.
