

# The First American Woman In Space: A Biography For Kids

On June 18, 1983, Sally Kristen Ride made history as the first American woman to venture into space. Her mission aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger captivated the world and paved the way for countless others to follow in her footsteps.

## Early Life and Education

Sally Ride was born on May 26, 1951, in Encino, California. From a young age, she exhibited a keen interest in math and science. As a high school student, she excelled in these subjects and participated in science fairs and clubs.



## Sally Ride : The First American Woman in Space - Biography Book for Kids | Children's Biography Books

by Baby Professor

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported



After graduating from high school, Ride pursued her passion for physics at Stanford University. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1973 and went on to obtain a Master's and Doctorate in physics from Stanford as well.

## **Becoming an Astronaut**

In 1977, NASA announced its selection of the first female astronauts, known as the "Thirty-Five New Guys." Sally Ride was among the six women and 29 men chosen to join this elite group.

After undergoing rigorous physical and mental training, Ride was assigned to the mission specialist team. Her responsibilities included operating the shuttle's robotic arm, conducting experiments, and monitoring systems.

## **STS-7: Ride's Historic Mission**

On June 18, 1983, Sally Ride embarked on her historic mission aboard Space Shuttle Challenger. The seven-day mission involved the deployment of two communications satellites and the conduct of several experiments.

During the mission, Ride became the first American woman to use the shuttle's robotic arm and to conduct a spacewalk. She also set the record for the longest duration in space by a woman, at 147 hours.

## **Legacy and Impact**

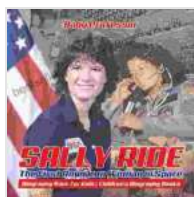
Sally Ride's historic flight had a profound impact on science, space exploration, and the role of women in the field. Her achievements inspired countless young girls to pursue careers in STEM and showed the world that women were capable of anything men could do.

Ride continued to work at NASA after her retirement from spaceflight. She served as a mission control specialist and later as the Director of the California Space Institute at San Diego State University.

Sally Ride passed away on July 23, 2012, at the age of 61. Her legacy as a pioneering astronaut and advocate for women in science continues to inspire and empower future generations.

Sally Ride's journey to space was a testament to her perseverance, determination, and love of science. Her historic mission opened doors for countless others and paved the way for greater diversity and inclusion in space exploration. As we continue to push the boundaries of human knowledge, we can look to her example as a beacon of inspiration and a reminder that anything is possible with hard work and unwavering dedication.

**Image Alt Text:** A black and white photograph of Sally Ride wearing an astronaut suit and helmet, standing in front of the Space Shuttle Challenger.



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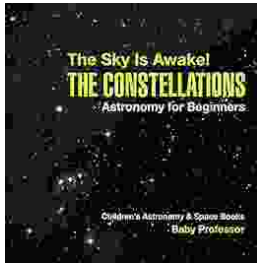
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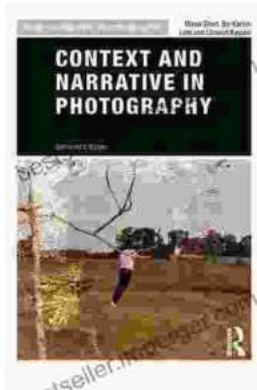
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