



## Who Was Sally Ride?

- 1 Sally Ride was the first American woman to fly in space. For fun, she liked to run. She also played tennis, volleyball, and softball. Ride wrote science books for children. The books are about exploring space.
- 2 Ride was born on May 26, 1951, in California. After high school, she went to Stanford University in California. She earned degrees in physics. Physics is a type of science.
- 3 NASA began looking for female astronauts in 1977. Ride was a student then. She saw an ad from NASA in a newspaper. It invited women to apply to the astronaut program. Ride applied for the job. She was one of six women picked!
- 4 On June 18, 1983, Ride became the first American woman to fly in space. She was an astronaut on a space shuttle mission. Her job was to work the robotic arm. She used the arm to help put satellites into space. She flew on the space shuttle again in 1984.
- 5 Ride stopped working for NASA in 1987. She started teaching at the University of California in San Diego. She looked for ways to help women and girls who wanted to study science and math. She came up with a special project. It lets students take pictures of Earth using a camera on the International Space Station.
- 6 In 2003, Ride was added to the Astronaut Hall of Fame. This honors astronauts for their hard work.
- 7 Until her death on July 23, 2012, Ride continued to help students study science and math. She wrote science books for students and teachers. She worked with science programs and festivals around the United States.

**REVIEW THE SKILL**

The main idea of a text is the most important idea or message expressed by the text. Look at the details and identify what message the details express.

**SAMPLE QUESTION**

***Why was Sally Ride an important person? Use details from the text to support your answer.***

**SAMPLE STUDENT ANSWER**

Sally Ride was the first American woman to fly into space. The text said in June 1983, Ride "became the first American woman to fly in space." She was also "added to the Astronaut Hall of Fame" in 2003.



**Home-School Connection**

Help your child practice identifying main ideas. Read a short news article aloud to your child. After reading, ask, "What was that article mostly about?" If your child has difficulty, ask "What is the main thing you learned? What was the author mainly trying to tell you?" The answer to that question is the main idea.

**ANSWER:** This statement answers the question.

**CLUE:** These details show why Sally Ride was an important American astronaut.

**Now refer to "Who Was Sally Ride?" to answer the following questions.**

1. Describe Sally Ride's job on the space shuttle. Use details from the text to support your answer.

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## Identify Main Ideas

2. How did Sally Ride become the first American woman to fly in space?
- A. Ride stopped working for NASA in 1987.
  - B. She had always wanted to be an astronaut.
  - C. She saw an ad looking for astronauts and applied for the job.
  - D. She started teaching at the University of California in San Diego.

3. This question has two parts.  
First answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

**Part A**

In paragraph 6, what is the meaning of the word "honors"?

- A. announces
- B. gives
- C. recognizes
- D. takes

**Part B**

What detail gives a clue to the meaning of "honors"?

- E. "hard work"
- F. "was added"
- G. "Hall of Fame"
- H. "honors astronauts"

4. Look at the cause-and-effect box.

Cause	Effect
Sally Ride was the first American woman to travel to space.	

Which of the following goes in the "effect" box?

- A. Sally Ride studied science.
- B. Sally Ride liked to play sports.
- C. She was added to the Astronaut Hall of Fame.
- D. She wrote science books for students and teachers.

5. Put the events below in the right order.

- A. She came up with a project involving a special camera.
- B. In 1983, she was the first American woman to fly in space.
- C. She flew on the space shuttle again in 1984.
- D. She stopped working for NASA in 1987.
- E. She saw a NASA ad in the newspaper.
- F. She earned degrees in physics.

1. \_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_

6. Besides traveling into space, how else did Sally Ride get involved with science? Use details from the text to support your answer.

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