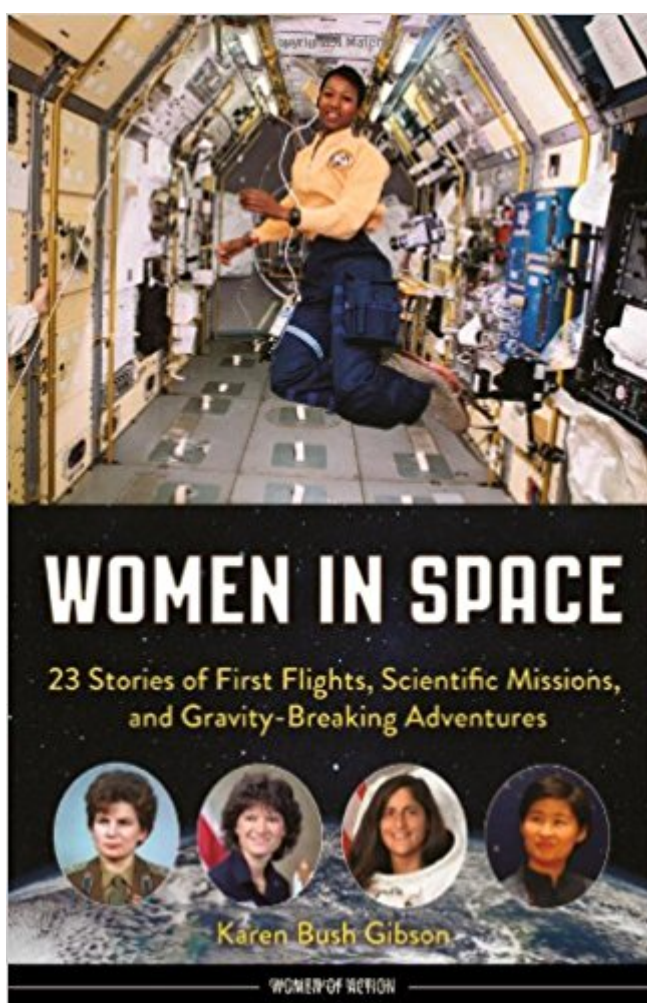


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Women In Space: 23 Stories Of First Flights, Scientific Missions, And Gravity-Breaking Adventures (Women Of Action)



Synopsis

When Valentina Tereshkova blasted off aboard Vostok 6 on June 16, 1963, she became the first woman to rocket into space. It would be 19 years before another woman got a chance—cosmonaut Svetlana Savitskaya in 1982—followed by American astronaut Sally Ride a year later. By breaking the stratospheric ceiling, these women forged a path for many female astronauts, cosmonauts, and mission specialists to follow. Women in Space profiles 23 pioneers, including Eileen Collins, the first woman to command the space shuttle; Peggy Whitson, who logged more than a year in orbit aboard the International Space Station; and Mae Jemison, the first African American woman in space; as well as astronauts from Japan, Canada, Italy, South Korea, France, and more. Readers will also learn about the Mercury 13, American women selected by NASA in the late 1950s to train for spaceflight. Though they matched and sometimes surpassed their male counterparts in performance, they were ultimately denied the opportunity to head out to the launching pad. Their story, and the stories of the pilots, physicists, and doctors who followed them, demonstrate the vital role women have played in the quest for scientific understanding.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 7-10 • In the space race between the Soviet Union and the United States, the first woman in space was the Soviet, Valentina Tereshkova, in 1963. America's first female astronaut, Sally Ride, went into space in 1983. This book details the stories of 19 others from across the globe who overcame obstacles of prejudice to fly in space. They include four Soviet women, Canadian astronaut Roberta Bondar, Japanese doctor Chiaki Mukai, French astronaut Claude Andre-Deshays Haignere, and Yi Soyeon, the first Korean in space. The story of the Mercury 13 is fascinating; 15 women were selected by NASA in the late 1950s. Successful pilots and scientists, they trained, as did the (male) crew of the Mercury 7, but then were not allowed to travel. Each chapter contains photographs and "Learn More" suggested readings. Sidebars are scattered throughout the book. This volume is a companion to the author's *Women Aviators* (Chicago Review, 2013) and an important addition to women's-history collections. • Patricia Ann Owens, formerly with Illinois Eastern Community Colls., Mt. Carmel

Gibson follows up *Women Aviators* (2013) with a similar, international gallery of pioneering women who reached for the stars (or, in the notorious case of the Mercury 13, were deliberately prevented from doing so). As in the previous title, she incorporates thorough research and a strong feminist message into her accounts, covering her subjects' specific accomplishments on earth and in space, while also surveying the general history of space flight and astronaut training with a special focus on the gender prejudice that had to be battled and (mostly) overcome. Along with the usual suspects, such as Sally Ride and Mae Jemison, there are many lesser-known women, from Svetlana Savitskaya (the second Russian woman in space) to Kalpana Chawla, who died aboard the space shuttle Columbia, and a number of other women from a variety of countries. This illuminating gathering of role models is also bolstered with sheaves of source notes and useful references to further resources. Grades 6-9. --John Peters

This book had several stories that are seldom told in regular classes. This book was comfortable reading, and it described the women in sufficient detail to understand the mark the individuals made in history. Often the book describes work that was attributed to others long ago. Some of these names do not come up in simple Internet searches for famous women from the space program. Thanks!

my 4 year old daughter is really into astronauts and space and I thought this book would be perfect

for her! We haven't started reading it just yet, but we're both happy with having it. She's very excited to learn about women in space.

Book arrived in time and in great condition. I plan to read it, along with other books about inspiring women in WWI, WWII, American Revolution, American Frontier, etc.

Great book! great historical overview about space exploration in general and then focusing on women's journey in space

So I've been on a space kick lately, reading a LOT of books about space and astronauts. In my hunt this book, *Women in Space: 23 stories of first flights, scientific missions, and gravity-breaking adventures* by Karen Bush Gibson, really caught my attention, I never knew that there were women being tested for the Mercury space program. I never knew the Soviets launched a woman into space before the US did. This book is in the teen section at my local library but I'd recommend it for anyone 4th grade and up, maybe even lower depending on their reading level. This book first talks about the Mercury 13, women who underwent all of the same tests as the male Mercury 7 astronauts. Each of these women was an accomplished pilot. They underwent the tests often completing them with better results than the male astronauts but were not allowed to be part of the program. One was made a NASA consultant that was almost never consulted. When the women tried to get changes made allowing them to be part of the program, appealing to then Vice President Lyndon Johnson who as a Senator had fought for the space program they were rejected. One reports that when she spoke to Johnson about it he told her "We can't let you into space, if we did we'd have to let the Blacks go to space, and then the Mexican Americans, all the minorities would want to go." Now this is obviously a secondhand quote but WOW. I realize this was before the Civil Rights Movement really got underway and made a difference but to hear that these words came from a man that would soon be President of the United States is seriously disconcerting. The book continues with stories of four female Soviet Cosmonauts, two of which went to space before the first American woman. Before their individual stories there is a short chapter giving a bit of the history of the Soviet space program and comparisons between it and the US program at NASA. Next up a chapter on American women in space beginning with Sally Ride the first American woman in space, it also tells of women walking in space, piloting the shuttle, commanding the shuttle and commanding the Space Station, and ends with the story of Barbara

Morgan the back up to Christa McAuliffe, teacher who died in the 1986 Challenger explosion (a site that gives me shivers to this day and I only saw it on tv unlike a friend of mine who living in FL at the time was standing outside her elementary school watching the launch live) previously there is the story of another American female astronaut that was on that flight. The last section of the book begins with a summary of the space programs of other countries and then continues with stories of female astronauts from several other countries including another member of the Challenger crew. The exciting thing to me is that while it took a long time for women to get to space it seems in the US at least that women are really making headway, 1:4 astronauts are women (compared to 1:7 in the police force nationwide), the 2013 class of astronauts is half women (a fact I was excited to see on a special display at the St. Louis Science Center for Women's History Month.)

Begins with the story of The Mercury 13: The True Story of Thirteen Women and the Dream of Space Flight and these 13 women's attempt to join the space program. But, due to fear by men and concern for menstruation and its impact upon decision making they were declined. Meanwhile, in Russia they sent some women up. A list of the 55 women to date who have been to space and list of space shuttle names. Each of the female Russian Cosmonauts have a short insightful biography and a photo. From there are short biographies of the American women and a photo followed by other women from around the world who have had a chance. Mentions that a Space Shuttle flight would cost \$450 million, seats to space cost \$20 million. Includes a glossary and index. Insightful.

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