

Ellen Ochoa

by ReadWorks



In 1991, a woman named Ellen Ochoa made history. She became the world's first Hispanic female astronaut!

The year before, Ochoa had been chosen to be an astronaut by NASA. NASA is the U.S. government agency that explores space. There are different kinds of astronauts, but all astronauts fly to space. To be an astronaut, a person has to spend many years studying science, engineering, or math. They have to be in good shape. They also have to have good eyesight. Some astronauts also have to be a certain height!

Ellen Ochoa met all of these requirements. She studied physics and engineering for many years before NASA chose her. And in 1993, she went into space for the first time!

Since then, Ochoa has been on four different space flights. The first two times she went into space, her mission had to do with the sun. She was helping study how the sun's energy

affects the earth's climate and environment.

The last two times she went into space, she went to the International Space Station. That is a huge spacecraft that goes around the earth. Astronauts live on the International Space Station. They have labs set up there so they can study space. They can also study the earth from space. The first time Ochoa went there, she was helping to set it up. The second time she went, she helped add a new part to the space station.

In all, Ellen Ochoa has spent around 40 days in space! And she has spent many more days helping astronauts and scientists from the ground.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Ellen Ochoa made history in 1991 by doing what?
 - A. becoming the world's first Hispanic female astronaut
 - B. becoming the first astronaut to visit space
 - C. becoming the first Hispanic female doctor
 - D. becoming the first Hispanic astronaut

2. The text lists different requirements a person must meet to become an astronaut. What is one of these requirements?
 - A. A person has to spend many years studying history and English.
 - B. A person has to spend many years studying science, engineering, or math.
 - C. A person has to have good hearing.
 - D. A person has to have worked at NASA for at least ten years.

3. Read these sentences from the text.

Since then, Ochoa has been on four different space flights. The first two times she went into space, her mission had to do with the sun. She was helping study how the sun's energy affects the earth's climate and environment.

The last two times she went into space, she went to the International Space Station. . . . The first time Ochoa went there, she was helping to set it up. The second time she went, she helped add a new part to the space station.

Based on this information, what can be concluded about Ellen's work in space?

- A. Ellen Ochoa's work in space has made it easier for people to travel to other planets.
- B. Ellen Ochoa's work in space has changed the way we learn about the sun.
- C. Ellen Ochoa has done unimportant work in space.
- D. Ellen Ochoa has done very important work in space.

4. Based on the text, why might the International Space Station have been built?

- A. because it allows people to travel to the sun
- B. because it allows people to travel to the other planets
- C. because it helps people study the earth and space
- D. because it stops space objects from hitting the earth

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- A. Astronauts set up labs on the International Space Station so that they can study space and study the earth from space.
- B. The world's first Hispanic female astronaut, Ellen Ochoa, has traveled to space to study the sun and the earth. She has also gone to space to work on the International Space Station.
- C. NASA chooses only people who meet certain requirements to become astronauts.
- D. Ellen Ochoa has studied how the sun's energy affects the earth's climate and environment.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

In all, Ellen Ochoa has spent around 40 days in space! And she has spent many more helping astronauts and scientists **from the ground** .

As used in the text, what does the phrase "**from the ground**" most nearly mean?

- A. from space
- B. from a spacecraft
- C. from the surface of the moon
- D. from the earth

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

A person has to meet certain requirements in order to become an astronaut.
_____, a person must be in good shape.

- A. For example
- B. However
- C. Although
- D. Finally

8. What did Ellen Ochoa do the first two times she went into space?

9. Why was Ellen Ochoa's work on the International Space Station important?

Support your answer with evidence from the text.

10. How has Ellen Ochoa helped people learn more about the world around them?

Support your answer with evidence from the text.
