

# Sally Ride

Sally Ride was born on May 26th, 1951. Her parents were named Dale and Carol. Their middle names were Burdell and Joyce. Her mother's maiden name was Anderson. She had a sister named Karen, who some people called "Bear." Her family was **Presbyterian**. She was born in Encino, California.

She went to Portola Junior high and then Westlake School for Girls in Los Angeles. In High school, she was interested in science and also a great tennis player! After High school, she went to college at Swarthmore College and took science classes at UCLA. Some time later, she went to Stanford University and got her degree in both English and **Physics**.

In 1977, Sally saw an ad in a newspaper. It said that **NASA** was looking for people to work for them. She applied and was chosen over 1,000 other people! She was the **capsule communicator** for the 2nd and 3rd flights of the Space Shuttle and built parts of the shuttle. On June 18th, 1983, Sally flew into space on the Challenger. She was not the first woman to fly into space, but the first American woman.

However, many Americans had never heard of a female astronaut before. Some people thought she might not be a good astronaut because she was a woman. People sometimes asked her questions that she thought were silly – if she cried on the job, or if she might give up on her dream of flying into space and become a mother instead. Instead of getting mad, she always answered these questions with a smile – and sometimes a joke.

She completed two **missions** into space. After leaving NASA, she became a science teacher at UC San Diego, the director of the California Space Institute, and started a company that holds science classes and camps for girls. She also wrote science books for kids.

## VOCABULARY:

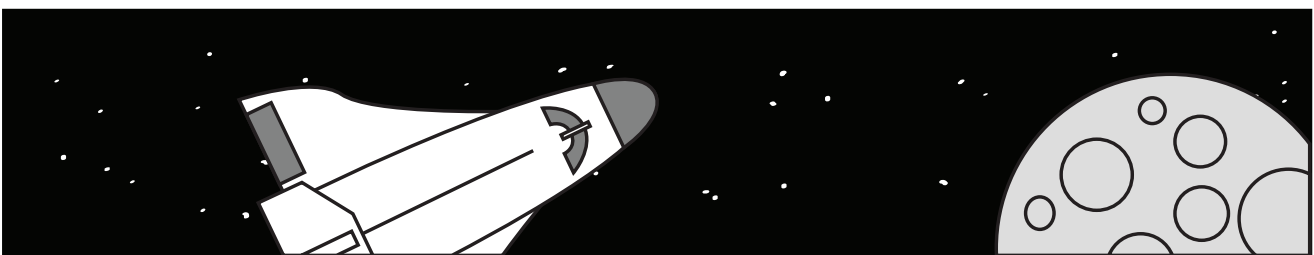
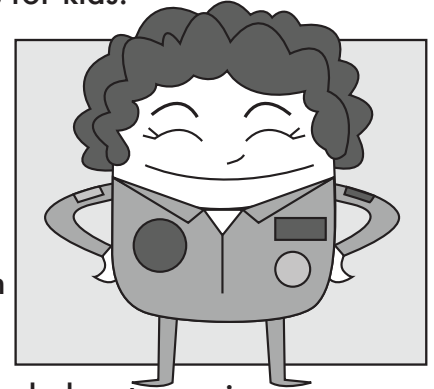
**Presbyterian** (prez-bit-tear-ee-an): A kind of religion or a person who is part of the Presbyterian church.

**Physics**(fizz-icks): A kind of science that deals with energy, motion and force.

**NASA** (nas-suh): The part of the government that explores space and planetary science.

**Capsule Communicator** (cap-sool com-mew-nick-Kate-or): The person on Earth who speaks to astronauts in space.

**Mission** (mish-shun): A task. At NASA, every flight to space is called a "mission."



**Read the story on the previous page. What part did you like the best?**

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**What part did you like the least?**

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**Is there any information you think should be left out of the story?**

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**Fill in what happened in Sally Ride's life between each of the events listed.**

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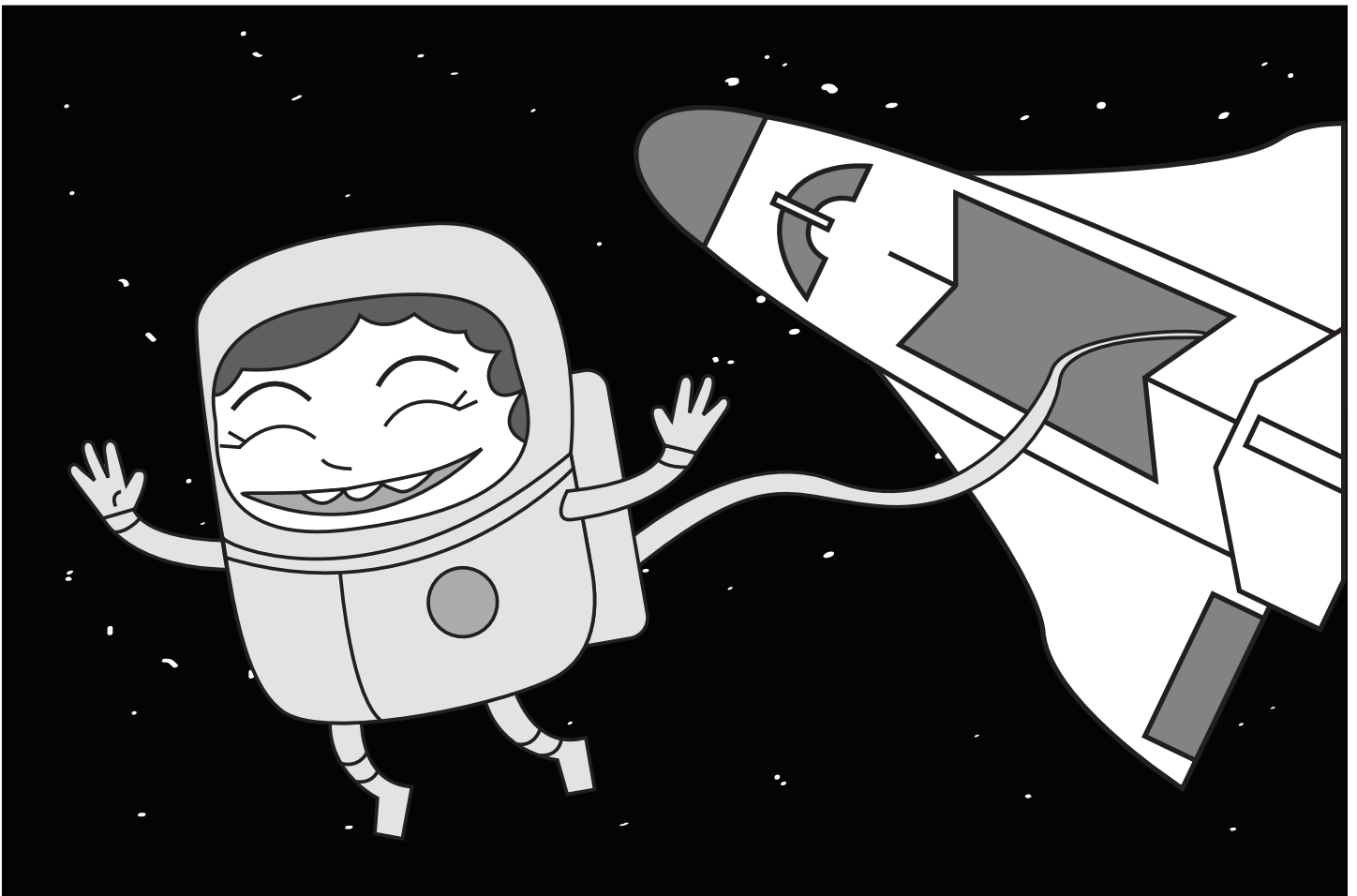
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She became a science teacher and started a company that helps girls take an interest in science.

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# Standing on the Shoulder of Giants

Would you like to stand on the shoulders of a giant? The expression is a popular phrase used to describe the way some people owe some of their success to heroes who came before them. When you "stand on a giant" you are building upon the work of others.

Study these fast facts about Amelia Earhart and Sally Ride.

**Name:** Amelia Earhart

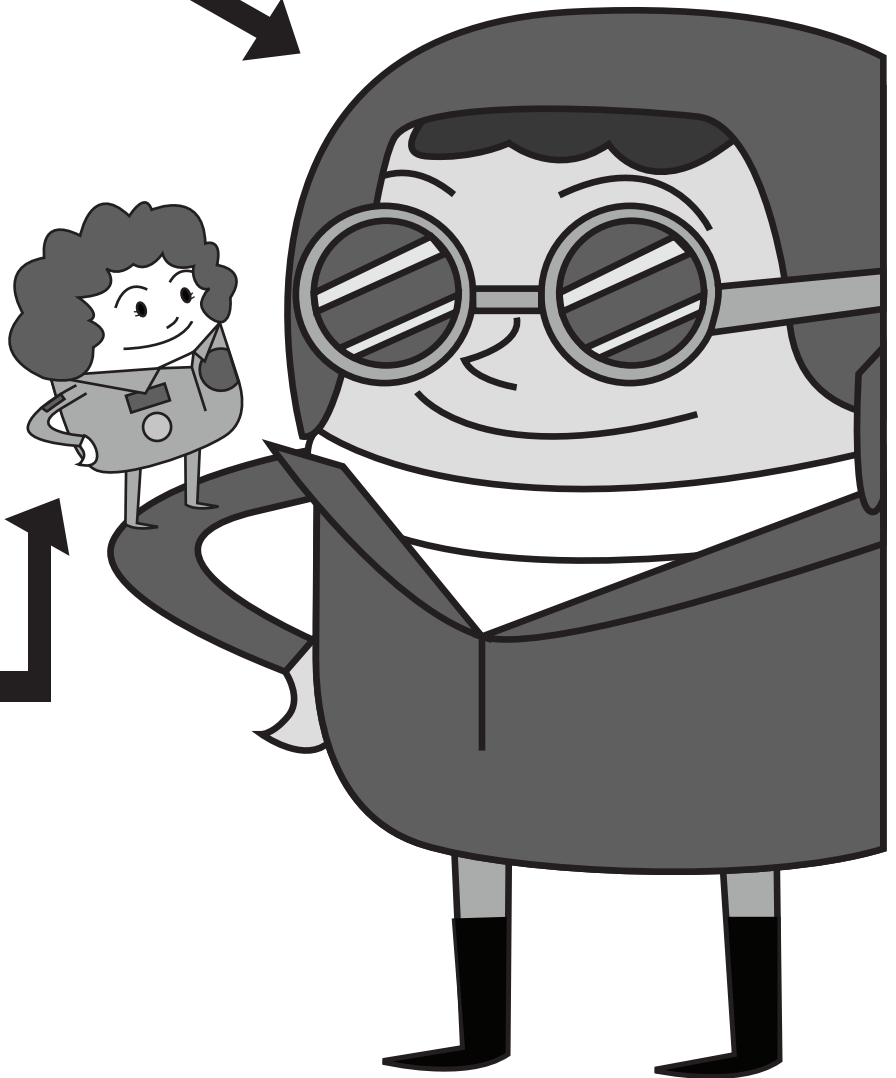
**Claim to Fame:** First woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean

**Brief Bio:** In 1928, Amelia Earhart agreed to fly across the Atlantic Ocean with pilot Wilmer Stultz. However, Earhart wasn't satisfied with playing co-pilot. Defying the society's long-held belief that only men should be at the controls, Earhart made history by flying solo across the Atlantic in 1932. Throughout her career, she showed the importance of women working alongside men.

**Name:** Sally Ride

**Claim to Fame:** First woman in space

**Brief Bio:** Sally Ride joined the NASA space program in 1978 and quickly found her calling. Despite finding acceptance within NASA, she was often questioned for being a woman trying to do a man's job. She silenced her critics in 1983 by becoming the first woman to enter space.



What did Amelia Earhart do that made her a "giant"?

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How did Sally Ride benefit from Amelia Earhart's accomplishments?

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Think about what great things you want to do in your life. Can you name some famous giants whom you might want to follow?

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