

Valentina Tereshkova

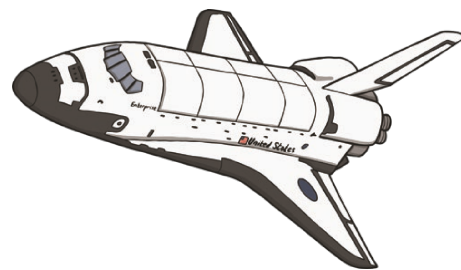
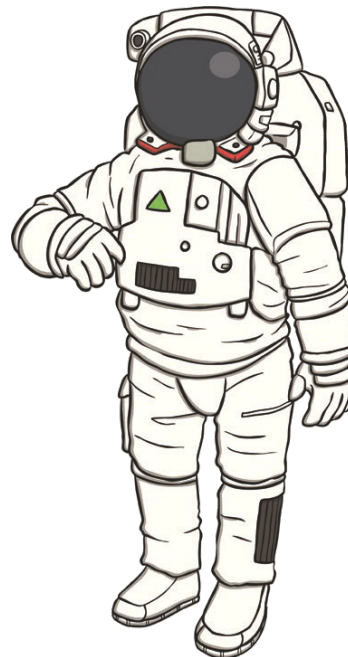
Valentina is a **cosmonaut** and **an engineer**. She is famous for being the first woman to fly in space.

Early Life

Valentina was born in 1937 in the country that is now called Russia, but was then called the USSR. Her family were so poor that they couldn't even afford bread! She left school at 16 and worked in a factory but she dreamed of doing something more exciting. Valentina joined a parachute club in her spare time.

The Space Race

The USSR wanted to be the first country to send a woman into space. They were in a race against the United States. Valentina applied to be in a space program and was accepted because of her skills in parachute jumping. Valentina and four other women were trained for 18 months to go into space. It was very hard work and they had to do many difficult tests in **zero-gravity**.



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They had to keep their training a secret – even from their families! Out of the five women, Valentina was chosen as the best and was the only one to go into space.

Adventures in Space

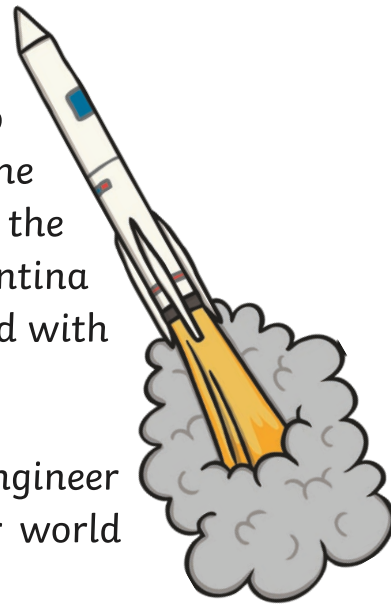
In 1963, Valentina flew alone in space on a shuttle called Vostok VI. She orbited the Earth 48 times, setting a new world record. She took amazing photographs in space that helped scientists back on Earth.

It had a tough journey back to Earth that nearly ended in disaster! The ship's programming went wrong and the ship nearly crashed. Luckily, clever Valentina was able to fix the problem and survived with just some bruises on her face.

After her flight, Valentina became an engineer and then a doctor. She now works for world peace.

Did You Know...?

Valentina's first husband was a cosmonaut too, making them the first married couple to have both been to space.



Cosmonaut – The name given to a Russian astronaut.

Engineer – A person who designs and builds things that solve problems.

Orbited – Flew around the planet without landing, in a shape like a circle.

Zero-gravity – When there is no force pulling you to the ground so you float around.

Questions

1. What was Valentina's country called when she was born? Tick **one**.

- America
- The USSR
- Russia

2. Number these events in Valentina's life 1-4 in the order they happened.

- Valentina worked in a factory.
- Valentina flew alone in space.
- Valentina trained for 18 months to go into space.
- Valentina was born in 1937.

3. What did Valentina set a new world record for?

4. Fill in the missing words.

Valentina and the _____ other women chosen had to keep their training a _____.

5. What happened to Valentina on her journey back to Earth?

Questions

6. Why do you think Valentina never went to space again? Give **two** reasons for your answer.
