

Valentina Tereshkova

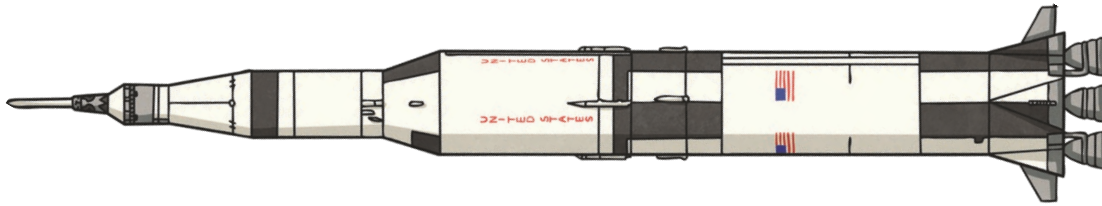
Who Is Valentina?

Valentina is a famous Russian cosmonaut. Cosmonaut is the Russian word for astronaut. She is best known for being the first woman to fly in space.

Valentina's Early Life

Valentina was born on 6th March 1937 in the country that is now called Russia but was then called the USSR. Her family were so poor they couldn't even afford bread! Valentina left school at just 16 and worked in a factory but she dreamed of doing something more exciting.

Valentina joined a skydiving club as a hobby and soon learnt that she had a knack for it!



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 programme and was chosen because she was good at skydiving.

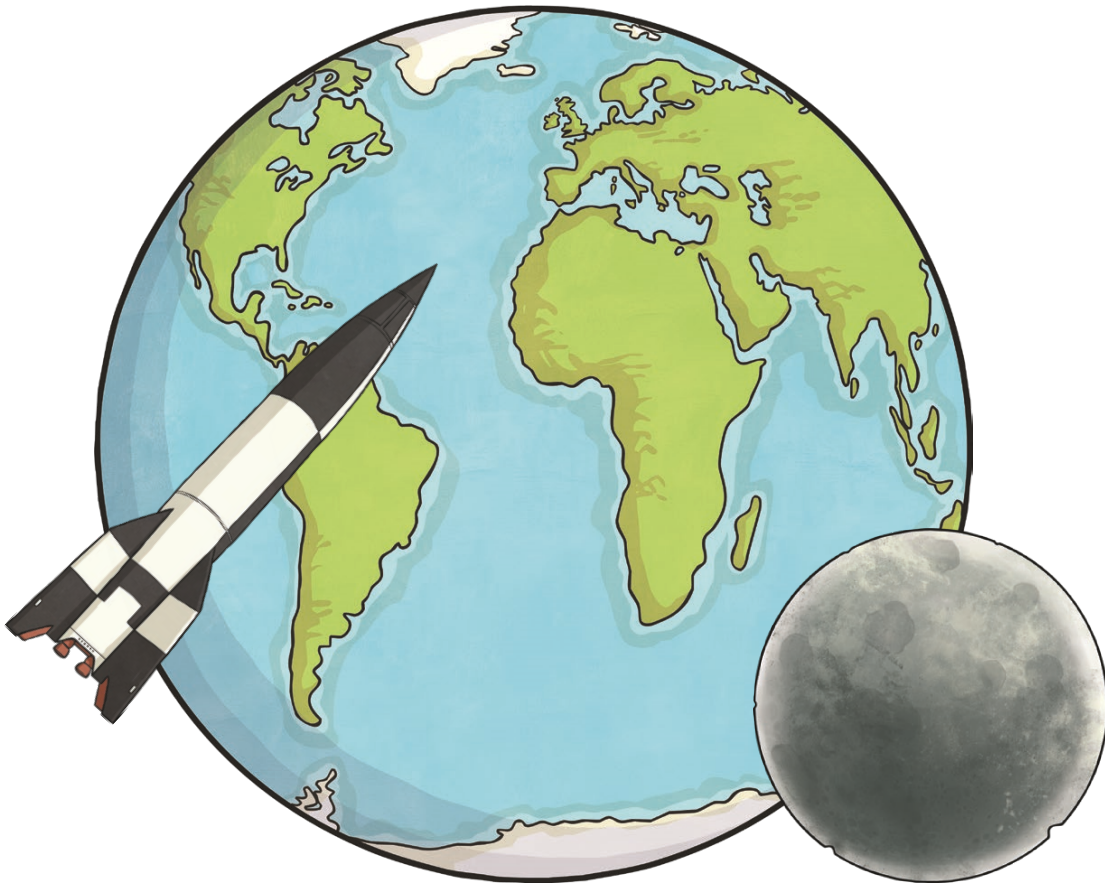
Five women were picked to train to be cosmonauts but only one of them would be sent into space. Valentina worked hard to win a place and training was tough. They had to do many tests in zero-gravity and spend lots of time on their own. The women had to keep their training a secret – even from their families! Of the five women, Valentina was chosen as the best and was the only one to go into space.



Valentina's Flight

On 16th June 1963, Valentina flew alone in space on a shuttle called Vostok VI. She went around the Earth 48 times setting a new world record. She took important photographs in space that helped scientists back on Earth. She 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 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 has a crater on the moon named after her!
- Valentina's first husband was a cosmonaut too, making them the first married couple to have both been to space.

Questions

1. What is Valentina's nationality? Tick one

- ☐ British ☐ Russian
☐ American ☐ German

2. When was the date of Valentina's first flight into space? Tick one

- ☐ 16th June 1936 ☐ 16th June 1963
☐ 13th July 1693 ☐ 19th July 1996

3. Draw lines to complete the sentences about Valentina

Valentina was chosen for
the space programme

Valentina worked

Valentina had to keep

in a factory before
becoming a cosmonaut.

her training a secret.

because she was good at
skydiving.

4. Number the events below to show the order in which they happened in Valentina's life. The first one has been done for you.

- ☐ Valentina trained in the space programme.
☒ 1 Valentina was born on 6th March 1937.
☐ Valentina joined a skydiving club.
☐ Valentina became a doctor.
☐ Valentina became the first woman to go to space.

5. Fill in the missing word in this sentence.

On her first flight, Valentina took _____ that helped science.

6. Find and copy one word that describes the kind of life Valentina dreamed of.

7. What happened to Valentina on her way back to Earth? Why do you think she reacted the way that she did?
