Name: _____ Date: _____

ELLEN OCHOA



Read the biography of Ellen Ochoa and answer the comprehension questions using the passage for reference.

Ellen Ochoa (born 1958) is a trailblazing astronaut, engineer, and the first Hispanic woman to go to space. Born in Los Angeles, California, Ellen was raised in La Mesa, a suburb of San Diego. Her early interest in science and math led her to San Diego State University, where she earned a degree in physics. She then went on to achieve a doctorate in electrical engineering from Stanford University.

Ellen's career began as a research engineer at Sandia National Laboratories and the NASA Ames Research Center. In 1991, she was selected by NASA to become an astronaut, making history in 1993 as the first Hispanic woman to travel to space aboard the space shuttle Discovery. During this mission, she helped study the Earth's ozone layer and conducted important experiments in the field of solar science.

Throughout her career as an astronaut, Ellen flew on four space missions, logging nearly 1,000 hours in space. Her work contributed to a better understanding of the Earth's atmosphere and the development of new technologies for space exploration.

In addition to her accomplishments in space, Ellen is an accomplished inventor with several patents for optical systems that improve the detection of flaws in various materials. Her work has had a significant impact on the field of engineering and space technology.

After retiring from spaceflight, Ellen took on leadership roles within NASA. She served as the Deputy Director and later the Director of the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, from 2013 to 2018. In this role, she oversaw the training of astronauts and the management of numerous space missions, including those to the International Space Station.

Ellen Ochoa's achievements have been recognized with numerous awards, including the NASA Distinguished Service Medal and the Hispanic Heritage Award for Leadership. She is a role model for young people, especially women and minorities in STEM fields. Ellen frequently speaks to students about the importance of education, perseverance, and pursuing one's dreams, regardless of the challenges faced.

Use the Image

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 What significant milestone did Ellen Ochoa achieve in 1993?

2 What leadership roles did Ellen Ochoa hold at NASA, and what were her responsibilities?

3 What message does Ellen Ochoa often share with students, and why is her story inspirational?

Use the Village