

Life

When was it? Complete the text.

Women in space

00.00–00.18 NASA began in _____. It put a man on the Moon in _____.

Spacecraft like Voyager 1 and 2 discovered new places in our solar system and the space shuttle flew into space and back again.

00.19–00.50 In the early days of NASA, space was a man's world.

But on the 18 June _____, Sally Ride was the first American woman in space.

Sally was a doctor of physics and she was part of a group of six candidates to be the first female astronaut.

Sally soon got the job and went into space on the Challenger space shuttle.

00.51–01.28 The Russians sent the first women into space in _____, but Sally Ride was the first for the USA.

She helped to launch two satellites and did scientific experiments over six days.

After she returned from the journey, Sally gave talks across the USA.

01.29–01.58 In particular, her journey was important for women and many travelled to listen to her.

Sally went into space one more time – in _____.

And after her, there were other women astronauts and other 'firsts'.

01.59–02.32 Mae Jemison was a physician and became the first African-American woman in space with the space shuttle Endeavour in _____.

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Then, in _____, Eileen Collins became the first female pilot, with the space shuttle Discovery.

And she flew two more times in _____ and _____.

02.33–end So as a result of Sally Ride, and many more female astronauts after her, young women – as well as young men – now dream of becoming astronauts and a journey into space.