

# Helen Sharman

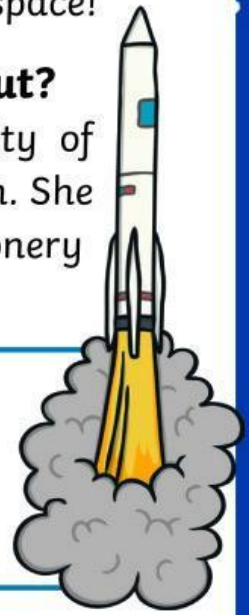
Helen Sharman was the first British person to go into space!

## What Did Helen Do before Becoming an Astronaut?

Helen gained a degree in Chemistry at the University of Sheffield and a doctorate from Birkbeck College, London. She worked in London as an engineer and for Mars Confectionery Ltd. as a chemist.

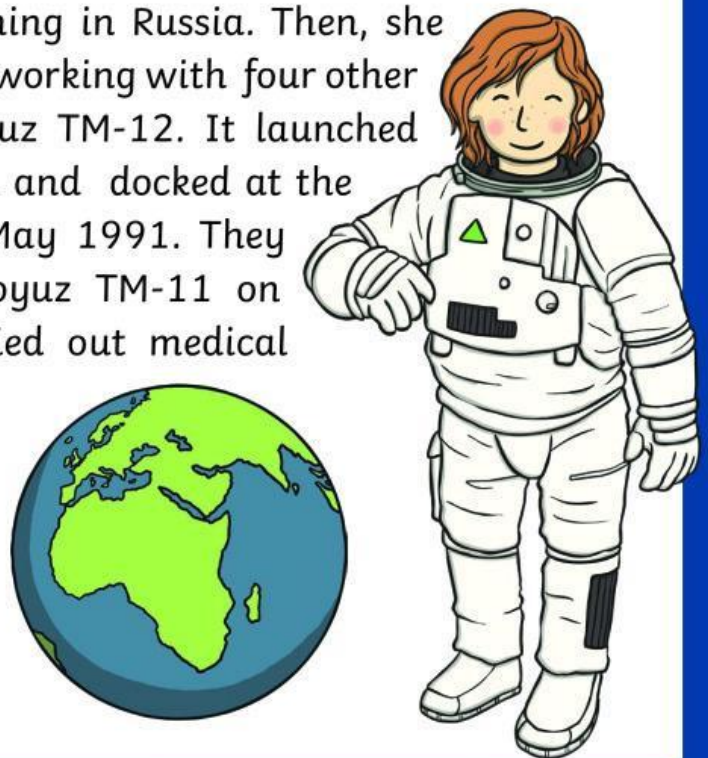
### Fun Facts

- Helen was born on 30th May 1963.
- She comes from Sheffield, UK.



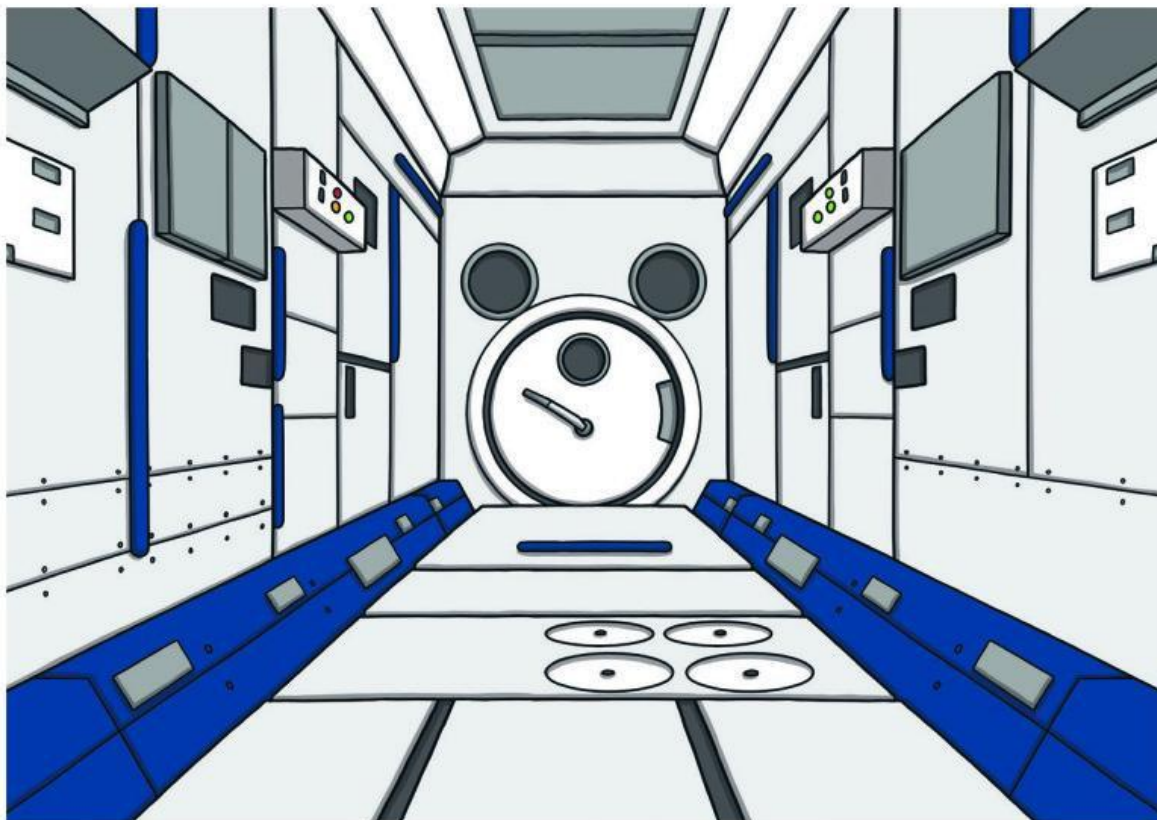
## What Has She Achieved?

In 1989, Helen applied, with 13,000 other people, to be an astronaut after hearing a radio advert looking for astronauts. She had to take many tests and then got the job as part of 'Project Juno', a commercial British cosmonaut mission. Helen completed 18 months of training in Russia. Then, she became a research cosmonaut working with four other astronauts on board the Soyuz TM-12. It launched into space on 18th May 1991 and docked at the space station 'Mir' on 20th May 1991. They returned to Earth aboard Soyuz TM-11 on 26th May 1991. Helen carried out medical and agricultural tests during their eight-day mission. In 1993, she was awarded an OBE from the Queen for her scientific work.



## What Is She Remembered For?

Helen is remembered for being an astronaut and a scientist. She is one of only 59 women who have flown in space. Helen was the first ever British astronaut in space, although some people mistakenly think that Major Tim Peake was. She spent some years travelling around the UK discussing her experiences in space. Helen now works as an operations manager in the chemistry department at Imperial College London.



# Questions

1. What nationality is Helen?

American

Russian

British

2. What did she work as before becoming an astronaut?

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3. **Tick two** true facts.

Helen was part of Project Juno.

Tim Peake was the first British astronaut in space.

Five people went into space that day on board Soyuz TM-12.

4. Find and copy **one word** which means 'talk about'.

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5. Complete the sentence.

Helen \_\_\_\_\_ during  
their eight-day mission.

6. What surprised you most about her achievements and why?

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