



Name _____

Date _____

JOHN GLENN

John Glenn was born in 1921 and grew up in Cambridge, Ohio. He married his childhood sweetheart, Anna Castor. They had two children, David and Carolyn. He went to college in Ohio and then entered the Marine Corps. He flew planes in World War II. He also flew for the Air Force after the war and received several medals for his service.

In 1959, John Glenn joined NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration). NASA is where astronauts are trained to go up into space. He was one of the first Mercury astronauts. He piloted the first manned spacecraft that orbited Earth. After completing three trips around Earth, he became a national hero.

John also ran for senate in his home state of Ohio and won. He had tried to win a seat in office a few times before. He finally became a senator in 1974. He also won re-election in 1980 and again in 1986.

But John's time in space was not done yet. After many years away, in 1998 he went on a second space mission. He was 77 years old. He wanted to help do experiments. These experiments could help scientists learn what happens to older people in space.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think John was able to go into space again at age 77?
 - a. He was going to die anyway.
 - b. He had already had experience being in space.
 - c. He was in good health.
 - d. He had won the race as senator.
2. What is the main idea of the third paragraph?
 - a. It introduces the main idea of the passage.
 - b. It discusses John Glenn's experience as an astronaut.
 - c. It discusses John Glenn's experience as a politician.
 - d. It explains the experiments done in space.
3. A good way to answer question #2 above is to . . .
 - a. reread the entire passage.
 - b. reread the first paragraph.
 - c. look for the words *astronaut* and *John Glenn*.
 - d. reread the third paragraph and determine the main idea.