

Name: _____

Biographies: Ellen Ochoa



Ellen Ochoa was born on May 10, 1958 in Los Angeles, California. She is an engineer and an astronaut for NASA, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and had the honor of being the first woman of Hispanic origin to travel to space.

Ellen Ochoa's parents were born in the United States. Her grandparents were originally from Sonora, Mexico.

Ellen Ochoa studied physics at San Diego State University and earned a PhD in electrical engineering at Stanford University. Later, she became a researcher at the NASA AMES Research Center.

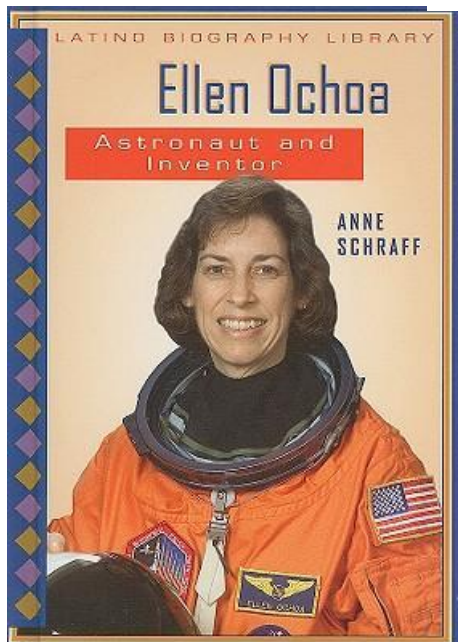
One of her most outstanding works was research optical systems for processing information. Ellen is a coinventor on three patents. One is for an optical inspection system, one for an optical object recognition, and another to remove the effect of noise in images.

In January 1990, after applying to NASA several times, her dream came true when she was selected by NASA. Ellen became an astronaut in July 1991, and on April 8, 1993, launched from Kennedy Space Center in Florida for her first space mission.

Ellen Ochoa participated in four missions to space in 1993, 1994, 1999, and 2002 accumulating 978 hours of space travel.

On her first mission STS-56 in 1993, Ellen Ochoa worked as a specialist. This mission lasted 9 days during which time atmospheric and solar studies were performed to better understand the effects of solar activity on our planet.





Ellen worked as cargo commander on her second mission STS-66 in 1994. This mission continued the study of solar energy. During this mission, Ochoa was in charge of using a mechanical arm to recover the atmospheric satellite that had left in space on a previous mission.

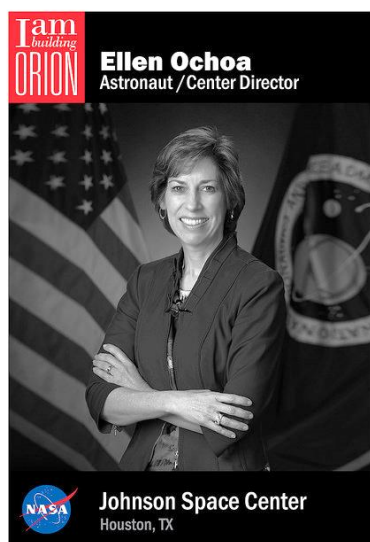
On her third mission STS-96 in 1999, Ellen was the flight engineer. This mission's aim was to move 4 tons of logistical material.

Ellen Ochoa's last mission, STS-110 in 2002, was mission number 13 for the International Space Station. She was the flight engineer on this mission.

In January 2013, she was assigned as director of the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center. She is the second woman to hold that position and the first of Hispanic origin.

Not everything in her life is about engineering. Ellen enjoys music, especially the flute. She is a classical flutist. In addition to all these achievements, Ellen Ochoa is married and has two children.

Ellen Ochoa has traveled all over the United States giving inspirational speeches to students and teachers about her experiences as an astronaut. Young students admired Ellen Ochoa for being a female astronaut.



Ellen is a member of the American Society of Optics and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronomy and has been awarded by NASA with the "Exceptional Service Medal" in 1997. She has also received the "Hispanic Heritage Award" and many other awards.

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ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Where did Ellen study physics?
 - a. At Stanford University
 - b. At Princeton University
 - c. At the University of San Diego
 - d. At Yale University
2. When did she become an astronaut?
 - a. In January 1990
 - b. In July 1991
 - c. In April 1993
 - d. None of the above
 - e.
3. How many space missions did she take?
 - a. 3
 - b. 4
 - c. 5
 - d. 6
4. On two space trips, Ellen traveled as a 'flight engineer'.
 - a. True
 - b. False
5. Which musical instrument did Ellen play?
 - a. The violin
 - b. The guitar
 - c. The saxophone
 - d. None of the above

