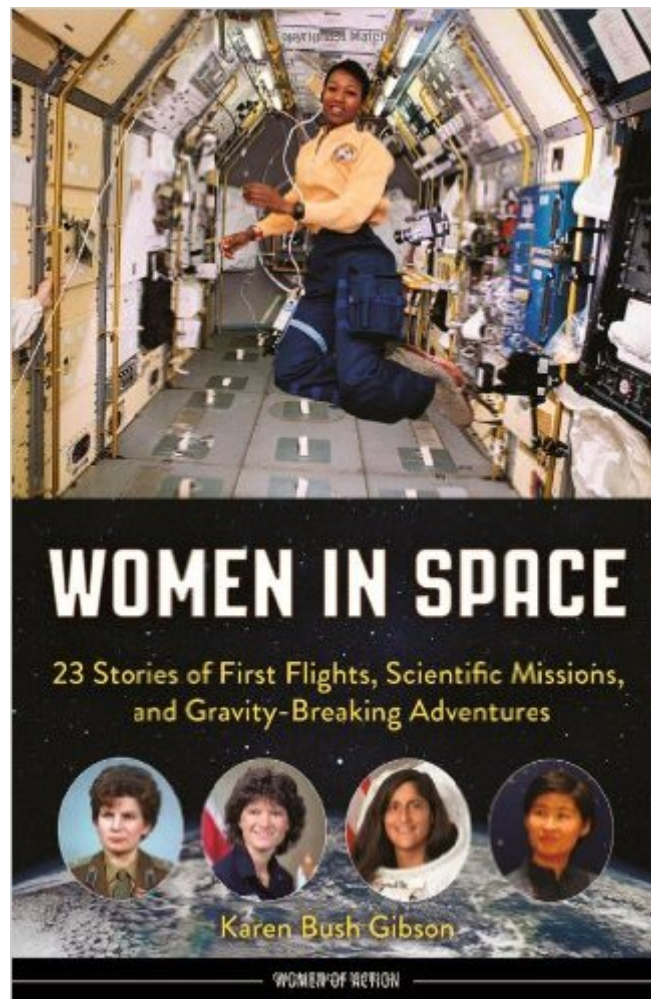


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# Women In Space: 23 Stories Of First Flights, Scientific Missions, And Gravity-Breaking Adventures (Women Of Action)



## Synopsis

When Valentina Tereshkova blasted off aboard Vostok 6 on June 16, 1963, she became the first woman to rocket into space. It would be 19 years before another woman got a chance—cosmonaut Svetlana Savitskaya in 1982—followed by American astronaut Sally Ride a year later. By breaking the stratospheric ceiling, these women forged a path for many female astronauts, cosmonauts, and mission specialists to follow. Women in Space profiles 23 pioneers, including Eileen Collins, the first woman to command the space shuttle; Peggy Whitson, who logged more than a year in orbit aboard the International Space Station; and Mae Jemison, the first African American woman in space; as well as astronauts from Japan, Canada, Italy, South Korea, France, and more. Readers will also learn about the Mercury 13, American women selected by NASA in the late 1950s to train for spaceflight. Though they matched and sometimes surpassed their male counterparts in performance, they were ultimately denied the opportunity to head out to the launching pad. Their story, and the stories of the pilots, physicists, and doctors who followed them, demonstrate the vital role women have played in the quest for scientific understanding.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

So I've been on a space kick lately, reading a LOT of books about space and astronauts. In my hunt this book, *Women in Space: 23 stories of first flights, scientific missions, and gravity-breaking adventures* by Karen Bush Gibson, really caught my attention, I never knew that there were women being tested for the Mercury space program. I never knew the Soviets launched a woman into space before the US did. This book is in the teen section at my local library but I'd recommend it for anyone 4th grade and up, maybe even lower depending on their reading level. This book first talks about the Mercury 13, women who underwent all of the same tests as the male Mercury 7 astronauts. Each of these women was an accomplished pilot. They underwent the tests often completing them with better results than the male astronauts but were not allowed to be part of the program. One was made a "NASA consultant" that was almost never consulted. When the women tried to get changes made allowing them to be part of the program, appealing to then Vice President Lyndon Johnson who as a Senator had fought for the space program they were rejected. One reports that when she spoke to Johnson about it he told her "We can't let you into space, if we did we'd have to let the Blacks go to space, and then the Mexican Americans, all the minorities would want to go." Now this is obviously a secondhand quote but WOW. I realize this was before the Civil Rights Movement really got underway and made a difference but to hear that these words came from a man that would soon be President of the United States is seriously disconcerting. The book continues with stories of four female Soviet Cosmonauts, two of which went to space before the first American woman.

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