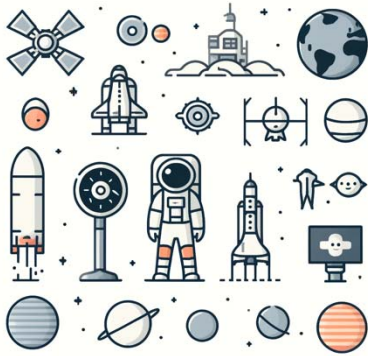


Name _____



John Glenn: A Pioneer in Space Exploration

John Glenn is remembered as a pioneer in space exploration who made history as the first American to orbit the Earth. His life, work, and lasting legacy have left an indelible mark on the field of astronautics and continue to inspire generations. Let's explore the extraordinary journey of this famous astronaut.

John Herschel Glenn Jr. was born on July 18, 1921, in Cambridge, Ohio. Growing up during the Great Depression, he developed a strong work ethic and a deep sense of patriotism. Glenn's fascination with flying began at a young age when he built model airplanes and dreamed of taking to the skies.

After high school, Glenn attended Muskingum College, where he pursued a degree in engineering. His education was interrupted by World War II when he left college to serve as a Marine Corps pilot, flying combat missions in the Pacific Theater.

Becoming an Astronaut

John Glenn's journey to becoming an astronaut was marked by determination and perseverance. In 1959, he was selected as one of the "Mercury Seven," the first group of American astronauts chosen for NASA's Mercury program. This program aimed to send humans into space and orbit the Earth.

Friendship 7: Historic Spaceflight

On February 20, 1962, John Glenn made history as he became the first American to orbit the Earth. He piloted the Mercury spacecraft named "Friendship 7" and completed three orbits around our planet. Glenn's successful mission marked a milestone in the Space Race, boosting American confidence in space exploration during the Cold War era.

Legacy and Impact

John Glenn's legacy extends far beyond his groundbreaking spaceflight. After leaving NASA, he pursued a career in politics and served as a United States Senator from Ohio for 24 years. During his time in the Senate, he continued to advocate for space exploration, scientific research, and education.

In 1998, at the age of 77, John Glenn made history once again by becoming the oldest person to fly in space. He flew aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery, demonstrating his enduring commitment to the pursuit of knowledge and exploration.

John Glenn's contributions to space exploration, public service, and his dedication to inspiring future generations have left an indelible mark on history. His legacy serves as a testament to the enduring spirit of exploration and the pursuit of knowledge.

