

I Can Touch the Stars

Human Capital is the individual's knowledge, experience and skills that can be improved or developed by "investing" in their human capital through training, education, improved skills, improved physical health and fitness and experience. Both Dr. Ride and Senator Glenn invested in their human capital – can you list some of the ways?

Dr. Sally Ride

<http://www.worldalmanacforkids.com/explore/space/sallyride.html>

The first American woman in space was a civilian, rather than a pilot. Sally Ride has a doctorate in Physics and flew with NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, as mission specialist on the space shuttle Challenger. While Sally Ride was the first American, the very first woman in space was Valentina Tereshkova, a Russian cosmonaut.

An interview with Dr. Sally Ride

<http://kids.msfc.nasa.gov/news/2002/news-bykids-Ride.asp>

Senator John Glenn

<http://www.worldalmanacforkids.com/explore/space/johnglen.html>

On February 20, 1962 John H. Glenn became the first American to orbit the earth. Long before he became an astronaut, he dreamed of reaching the stars. As a young boy growing up in Concord, Ohio, he built model airplanes and imagined what it would be like to fly. Glenn studied hard in school, but enjoyed lots of other activities too, like sports, playing the trumpet, singing in the school glee club, acting in plays, and serving as President of his Junior Class.

In order to be chosen for the orbit mission, he had to pass many strict criteria set up by NASA. He had to be shorter than five feet, eleven inches, in excellent physical condition, college educated, a test pilot, and able to pass difficult endurance tests to make sure he could withstand the strenuous space assignment.

In addition to the physical requirements, his educational background played a large part in preparation for the space flight. As a student he probably never realized how important math, science, and reading would become when working towards achieving his goals. Glenn learned the value of setting a goal and doing everything in his power to achieve his dream to go where no American had ever gone before.