

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Ellen Ochoa

Learn more about this topic! Each section gives more detail on one of the lyrics from the song. Read each section, and then respond by answering the question or taking notes on key ideas.

1. b'

Ellen Ochoa was born on May 10, 1958, in Los Angeles, California, and grew up in La Mesa, California. Her paternal grandparents were Mexican immigrants from Sonora, Mexico. From a young age, Ochoa excelled in school and developed a love for playing music, especially the flute. Her love for playing the flute continued on as she entered college at San Diego State University. She was part of the university's wind ensemble and even considered majoring in music. But Ochoa also had a deep interest in math and science and decided to major in physics instead. After graduating college, she went on to pursue her masters degree and doctorate in engineering at Stanford University.

\n

In 1983, while Ochoa was in the middle of getting her PhD, Sally Ride rocketed into space, making her the first American woman in space. Ochoa recalled when she was 11 years old, the Apollo 11 astronauts landed on the moon. At that time, there weren't any women astronauts, so it didn't cross her mind that she could become one. But watching Sally Ride achieve a big milestone inspired Ochoa to become an astronaut.

\n'

Notes

2. b'

In 1985, right after receiving her doctorate, Ochoa applied for the NASA astronaut training program. Ochoa continued research at Sandia National Laboratories in the field of optics and image processing. She became a co-designer on three patents for an optical system that would help scientists better analyze detailed images.

\n

When selection time came around in 1987, she was not accepted into the training program. But this did not deter Ochoa\x80\x94she applied two more times and was finally accepted in 1990.

\n

On April 8, 1993, Ochoa became the first Hispanic woman in space. On the space shuttle, Discovery, Ochoa and the crew studied the effects of the sun on Earth\x80\x99s environment. Ochoa even brought her flute aboard, combining her love for music and STEM. This was one of four successful missions she embarked on during her career, logging nearly 1,000 hours in orbit.

\n'

3. b'

Ochoa recognized she wouldn\x80\x9t have been able to choose this career path if it weren\x80\x9t for the women who paved the way before her. So on her third space mission in 1999, Ochoa unfurled a flag used by the National Women\x80\x99s Party in space to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Women\x80\x99s Rights Convention. Ochoa continued her work for NASA and became the first Hispanic director of the Johnson Space Center in 2013. She was also inducted into the US Astronaut Hall of Fame in 2017.

\n

After nearly 30 years of working for NASA, Ochoa retired in 2018, but Ochoa\x80\x99s story continues to inspire others today. Her bilingual children\x80\x99s book, *We Are All Scientists*, encourages young students to embrace their inner scientists and go after their dreams.

\n'

Notes

Notes