

Reaching for the Stars

Review Key Words

- achieve** Achieve means to complete, win, or make real.
- astronaut** An astronaut is a person who travels in space.
- engineering** Engineering is the designing and making of things such as bridges, roads, and machines.
- realized** Realized means learned or understood something that you did not know before.



Read the Story²⁻⁴

6 Many children dream of going into
 13 space. Ellen Ochoa was not one of
 21 them. She had the kinds of skills NASA
 28 wanted. But she didn't think a woman
 35 could be an **astronaut**. When Ellen was
 40 young, NASA's space program was
 43 **limited to** men.

49 **Instead**, Ellen used her strong math
 55 and science skills to study **engineering**.
 62 She did well in engineering school. She
 68 helped invent new science tools. Then,
 75 in 1983, NASA sent its first woman
 81 astronaut into space. Ellen **realized** she
 86 could be an astronaut too.

91 She **applied** to NASA's space
 97 program. The people at NASA were
impressed by Ellen's skills. They liked

103 the things she had invented. Still, Ellen
 110 had to **convince** NASA to choose her
 117 over hundreds of others. It took five
 124 years, but Ellen kept working hard. At
 131 last, NASA accepted her.

135 Ellen became the first **Hispanic**
 140 woman astronaut. She made many trips
 146 into space. She faced new **situations**
 152 that put her science and engineering
 158 skills to work. She earned many awards
 165 from NASA.

167 Ellen talked to children about her
 173 work. She told them, "Only you put
 180 **limitations** on yourself about what you
 186 can **achieve**, so don't be afraid to reach
 194 for the stars."
 197

	day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4
words read in 1 minute				
– number of mistakes				
= total words read correctly				
adult initials				

Reaching for the Stars

Answer the Questions

1. What is the main idea of this story?
 - a. Ellen Ochoa was the first Hispanic woman astronaut.
 - b. Ellen Ochoa earned many awards from NASA.
 - c. Many children dream of going into space.
2. What did Ellen help invent?
 - a. new science tools
 - b. NASA's space program
 - c. engineering skills
3. What does the word **applied** mean in this story?
 - a. tried very hard
 - b. asked to be part of
 - c. added something
4. When did Ellen decide to try to become an astronaut?
 - a. when she went to engineering school
 - b. when she invented many science tools
 - c. when the first woman went into space
5. What did Ellen mean by "reach for the stars"?

6. Match each word with its definition.
 1. impressed a. ___ make people think a certain thing
 2. instead b. ___ things that stop something
 3. convince c. ___ rather than
 4. limitations d. ___ made to think highly of something

Parent Tips

Students often pause at the end of a line of text rather than waiting until the punctuation. Stopping mid-sentence has a negative effect on comprehension. Remind your child not to stop until reaching the punctuation. Model the difference between pausing at the end of the line and pausing at the punctuation.
