

Tim Peake

Early Life

Timothy Nigel 'Tim' Peake was born in Chichester, West Sussex, on 7th April 1972, and grew up in a nearby village. Tim and his older sister, Fiona, enjoyed a stable upbringing and ordinary family life. Their mother, Angela, worked as a midwife and their father, Nigel, who was a journalist, had always been interested in aircraft. He took Tim to air shows from an early age. This is where Tim's fascination with flying began.

He started at the Chichester High School for Boys in 1983, leaving in 1990 to attend the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

Military Career

Despite having been interested in stars and the universe as a child, as a career choice Tim followed his passion for flying and trained to be a pilot resulting in an eighteen-year military career flying all types of helicopters and aircraft.

Tim later trained to be an instructor, before flying Apache helicopters in Texas with the US Army. On his return to the UK, the Apache was being introduced into the British Army so Tim helped develop the training programme.

Tim left the army in 2009 after completing over 3000 flying hours to become a test pilot.

Training Success

In 2008, when the European Space Agency (ESA) announced it was accepting applications for new astronauts, Tim saw the advert online and decided it was too good an opportunity to miss. His application joined 8000 others!

In 2009, following various exams, Tim received a phone call from the ESA offering him a place to train to be an astronaut with the European Astronaut Corps.

Basic training involved learning all of the knowledge needed to become an astronaut including: space law, rocket propulsion and space flight engineering. Tim also had to learn to speak Russian (the language used by the ESA training programme). As training progressed, Tim learnt survival skills and how to move in zero gravity.

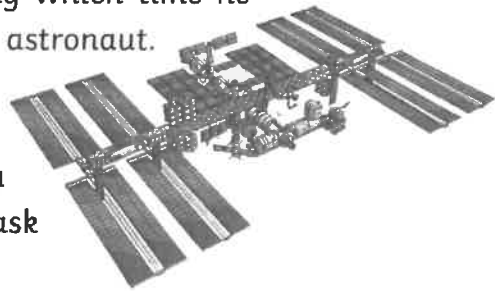


Blast Off!

On 15th December 2015, as Tim Peake launched alongside Yuri Malenchenko and Tim Kopra at 11:03 a.m., the nation held their breath. Tim reached his destination on the same day but the docking procedure did not go to plan, meaning the team had to dock manually. More than two hours later, the hatch opened and Tim was welcomed onboard, becoming the first British ESA astronaut to live on the International Space Station (ISS).

Tim spent six months living in space, during which time he completed the first spacewalk by a British astronaut.

With his crewmate, Tim Kopra, Tim travelled 50 metres to reach their maintenance work. The mission was cut short when Tim Kopra reported water in his helmet but the main task had been completed successfully.



Coming Home

Tim returned to Earth on 18th June 2016. He landed in Kazakhstan, travelling in the Soyuz capsule at 25 times the speed of sound. During his mission, Tim had taken 3000 orbits of Earth, covering about 125m km. It took around two months for Tim's body to recover from the effects of zero gravity.

While in space and since returning home, Tim has worked a lot with children on various science projects to spread the excitement of being an astronaut.

Glossary

test pilot – A pilot who flies an aircraft to test its performance.

astronaut – A person who is trained to travel in a spacecraft.

zero gravity – The state or condition in which there is no apparent force of gravity acting on a body.

dock manually – Land by hand (rather than using computers).

spacewalk – A period of physical activity engaged in by an astronaut in space outside a spacecraft.

Soyuz capsule – A spacecraft designed by the Soviet space programme.

Questions

1. As training progressed, Tim learnt survival skills and how to move in zero gravity.' What does **progressed** mean? Tick one.

- ☐ moved backward
- ☐ moved forward
- ☐ stopped
- ☐ started

2. Match the educational establishment to the year that Tim started attending it.

Chichester High School
for Boys

2009

Royal Military Academy
Sandhurst

1983

European Astronaut Corps

1990

3. Which job and training did Tim do in 2009?

4. Why did Tim have to learn to speak Russian?

5. Find and copy a word from the first paragraph which shows that Tim had a great interest in flying.

6. Has Tim Peake had a satisfying career to date? Explain your answer.

7. Why do you think that Tim has spent time working with children since his space mission?

8. What do you think that Tim will do next in his career? Explain your answer.
