The Amazing Life of John H. Glenn

Military Leader, Pilot, Astronaut, U.S. Senator

By Jake Rayner

Students become biographers writing about a person’s life story.
Be Adventurous!
Pursue your Dreams

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Create a saying based on the person's life or showcase a famous quote.

In Google Docs and Word, create a table of contents.
Personal History

John Glenn was a famous military leader, pilot, astronaut, and senator. He was born July 18th, 1921 in Ohio. His fearless nature offers inspiration to others.

Early Life and Family

John grew up in New Concord, a small town in Ohio. As a young boy he had an interest in science and flight. In 1943, he married Anna, his childhood friend. They were married for over seventy years, had two children, and grandchildren.

Education

John attended primary and secondary schools in New Concord. Afterwards, he went to Muskingum College to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering. In 1942, John joined the US Naval Aviation Cadet Program where he began to develop his superior piloting skills. Many years later he continued his flight training and graduated from the US Naval Test Pilot School.

Career

Military Leader and Pilot

John’s military career began in 1943 when he joined the US Marine Corp. He flew 59 combat missions in World War II and later flew missions in the Korean War. In 1948, his passion for flying led him to join the Naval Air Test Center, where he served as a test pilot for Naval and Marine aircraft. He retired from the Marine Corps in 1965 as the rank of Colonel.

NASA Astronaut

In 1959, John was looking for a new adventure. He joined NASA as a Project Mercury Astronaut. Only a few short years later, he would be the first American to orbit Earth in the Friendship 7 spacecraft. He served as an advisor to NASA until 1964, when he left to pursue public office. However, his love of space exploration continued and 36 years after his flight into space he returned to NASA in 1998 to be the payload specialist on the Discovery space shuttle. He was 77 years old!
Senator

In 1964, John wanted to become a senator. Unfortunately, his plans were derailed when he had an accident. He spent several years working as a business executive. In 1970, he ran again for senate but lost. He did not give up and in 1974 he was elected to the US Senate. Senator Glenn served four terms. He liked politics and even ran for president, although he did not win. John retired from politics in 1999.

Follow your Dreams

John had a fearless, adventurous spirit. His life story shows that you can be anything you want, whether it is a pilot, astronaut, or senator. He inspires others to pursue their dreams and never give up.

Contributions

**War Hero**

John Glenn flew missions in World War II and the Korean war. In the last nine days of fighting in Korea, Glenn downed three MiGs in combat along the Yalu River. He has been awarded many valor medals.

His military service helped to protect the US and their allies.

**Space Explorer**

John Glenn was the first American to orbit Earth. His flight lasted 4 hours, 55 minutes, and 23 seconds. He is the oldest person to travel into space as part of the NASA STS-95 mission. His contributions to NASA provided the foundation for future engineering of spacecraft.

**Speed Record Setter**

John Glenn flew at a record speed of 725.55 mph from LA to NY in 3 hours, 23 minutes, and 8.4 seconds. It was the first transcontinental flight to average supersonic speed.

The purpose of the Project Bullet flight was to test engine requirements for fighter jets. This helped engineers build better planes for combat missions.
### Connect with John Glenn

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Watch the Gold Star Mother’s Speech:</th>
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<tr>
<td>★ In 1974, while running for senator, John Glenn gave a speech as part of a debate at the Cleveland City Club.</td>
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<td>★ During the speech he defends the importance of a soldier’s job. This speech is in response to comments made by his opponent that he never held a job or had to make a payroll.</td>
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<td>★ John Glenn was proud of his military service and this is a passionate speech. John won the senate election.</td>
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[Watch video from 0:53 to 2:00.]

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<tr>
<th>View the Presidential Nominee Campaign Flyer:</th>
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<tr>
<td>★ In 1984, John Glenn ran in the presidential primaries for the Democratic Party. The primaries are a way for voters to pick the nominee to run for the President of the United States. Unfortunately, he did not get enough support, so he withdrew.</td>
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<tr>
<td>★ His slogan was Integrity Counts. He campaigned to increase public confidence in government, fight inflation, develop a national energy policy, and have national health insurance.</td>
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<td>★ John Glenn wanted to improve the lives of Americans.</td>
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<th>Read the Medal of Freedom Press Releases</th>
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<td>★ In 2012, John Glenn was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama.</td>
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<td>★ The medal is the highest civilian honor and is given to people who have made a lasting contribution to the Nation.</td>
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<td>★ At the ceremony, it was said that, “John Glenn’s example has moved us all to look to new horizons with drive and optimism”.</td>
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Read the [White House press release](#) or [ceremony transcript](#).
Bibliography


<https://www.nasa.gov/centers/glenn/about/bios/glennbio.html>.


<http://johnglennhome.org/about/john-glenn>.


Cite the sources of information. Tips help students organize and format the bibliography.