

# Tim Peake

## Early Life

Timothy Nigel 'Tim' Peake was born in Chichester, West Sussex, on 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

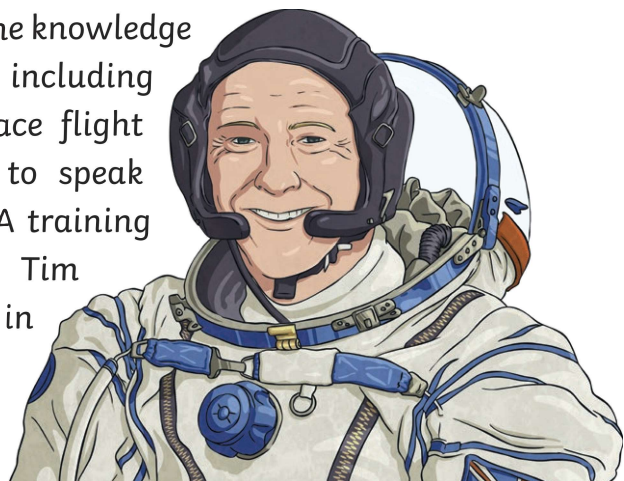
Tim left the army in 2009 after completing over 3,000 flying hours to become a **test pilot**.

## 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 8,000 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.

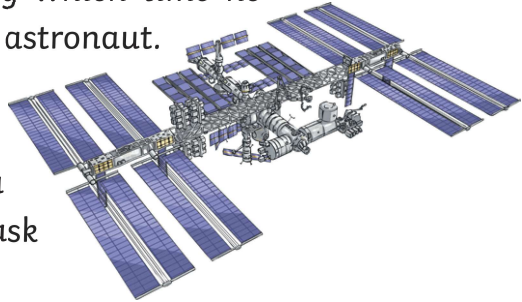


## Blast Off!

On 15<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> June 2016. He landed in Kazakhstan, travelling in the **Soyuz capsule** at 25 times the speed of sound. During his mission, Tim had taken 3,000 orbits of Earth, covering about 125 million 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. Draw three lines to 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?

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

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

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

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

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

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# Tim Peake

## Early Life

Timothy Nigel 'Tim' Peake was born in Chichester, West Sussex, England, on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1972 and grew up in a nearby village. Tim and his older sister, Fiona, enjoyed a stable upbringing and an unextraordinary family life. Their mother, Angela, worked as a midwife and their father, Nigel, was employed as a journalist. Tim's father had always been interested in historic aircraft so he took Tim to air shows from an early age: this is where Tim's fascination with flying began.

He studied 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 various 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 contributed to the development of the training programme with his input.

Tim left the army in 2009 after completing over 3,000 flying hours to become a test pilot - a pilot who flies an aircraft to test its performance.

## European Space Agency

In 2008, when the European Space Agency (ESA) announced it was accepting applications for new astronauts, Tim spotted the advert online and decided it was an excellent opportunity that he couldn't afford to miss. His application was just one out of 8,000 others!

In 2009, following numerous exams and assessments, Tim received a phone call from the ESA congratulating him and offering him one of the six available places to train to be an astronaut with the European Astronaut Corps in Cologne, Germany.

Basic training involved acquiring all of the knowledge needed to become an astronaut including space law, rocket propulsion and



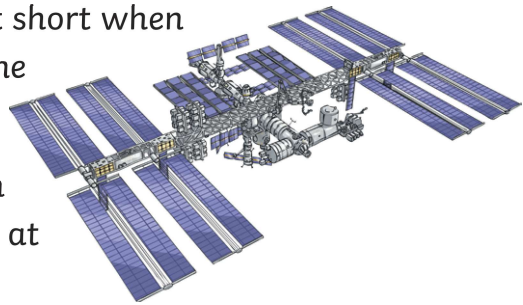
space flight engineering. Tim was also required to learn to speak Russian (the language used by the ESA training programme). As training progressed, Tim learned survival skills, CPR (short for cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and how to move in zero gravity.

### **Blast Off!**

On 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015, at 11:03 a.m., the nation held their breath as Tim Peake launched alongside Yuri Malenchenko and Tim Kopra. Tim reached his destination at 5:33 p.m. but the docking procedure did not go smoothly, meaning the team had to dock manually (by hand or without computers). More than two hours later, the hatch opened and Tim was welcomed onboard, becoming the first British ESA astronaut to inhabit the International Space Station (ISS).

Tim spent six months living in space, during which time he engaged in the first spacewalk (a period of physical activity engaged in by an astronaut in space outside a spacecraft) by a British astronaut. With his crewmate, Tim Kopra, Tim travelled 50 metres (double the length of a normal-sized swimming pool) 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.

Tim also completed the London Marathon on the ISS treadmill and appeared via video link at the Brit Awards ceremony.



### **Coming Home**

Tim zoomed back to Earth on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2016, travelling in the Soyuz capsule (a spacecraft designed by the Soviet space programme) at 25 times the speed of sound and landing in Kazakhstan at 9:15 a.m. During his mission, Tim had taken 3,000 orbits of Earth, covering about 125 million km. It took approximately two months for Tim's body to recover from the effects of zero gravity (the state or condition in which there is no apparent force of gravity acting on a body).

Tim commented that as a child, like many other children, he dreamt of going into space but never really considered it a possibility. However, a lifelong fascination with flying, years of training as a pilot and then an astronaut, along with some luck, turned his dream into a reality. While in space and since returning home, Tim has worked a lot with children on various science projects to spread the excitement and possibility of becoming an astronaut.

# Questions

1. Which one of these did Tim do as his first job? Tick one.

- test pilot
- instructor
- fly Apache helicopters for the US army
- pilot for the British army

2. Number the following statements in the order in which they happened in the text. The first one has been done for you.

- Tim left the army.
- Tim applied to become an astronaut.
- 1 Tim became a pilot with the army.
- Tim completed the London Marathon from space.
- Tim manually docked with the ISS.

3. What was the name of the awards ceremony that Tim attended via video link?

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4. Fill in the missing words in this sentence:

In 2009, following numerous \_\_\_\_\_, Tim received a phone call from the ESA congratulating him and offering him one of the six available places to train to be an astronaut with \_\_\_\_\_ in Cologne, Germany.

5. Find and copy a phrase from the text which shows that Tim knew he had to apply to be an astronaut.

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6. 'Tim zoomed back to Earth on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2016...'

Why do you think that the author used the word 'zoomed' in this sentence?

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7. Why do you think that Tim is so popular?

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8. How is Tim Peake similar to another famous explorer or scientist?

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9. Do you think that Tim will still be an astronaut five years from now? Explain your answer.

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# Tim Peake

## Tim's Background

Timothy Nigel 'Tim' Peake was born in Chichester, West Sussex, England, on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1972 and grew up in a nearby village. Tim and his older sister, Fiona, enjoyed a stable upbringing and a relatively ordinary family life. Their mother, Angela, worked as a midwife and their father, Nigel, was employed as a journalist. Tim's father had always had a keen interest in historic aircraft and Tim accompanied him to air shows from an early age: this is what fuelled Tim's fascination with flying and his passion began.

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

## Military Career

Despite having been intrigued by stars and the universe as a child, Tim pursued his passion for flying and trained to be a pilot resulting in an eighteen-year military career, flying a broad range of helicopters and aircraft. His skills were tested the most intensely in Bosnia when Tim was in active service during the war in the Balkans in the 1990s.

In 2005, Tim trained to be an instructor, joining the prestigious Empire Test Pilots' School and graduating with an award for the 'best rotary wing pilot'. He also completed a degree in Flight Dynamics and Evaluation from the University of Portsmouth, before flying Apache helicopters in Texas with the US army. Luckily, on his return to the UK, the Apache was being introduced into the British army so Tim made valuable contributions to the development of the training programme.

Tim left the army in 2009, after completing over 3,000 flying hours to become a test pilot - a pilot who flies an aircraft to test its performance.

## European Space Agency

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 once in a lifetime opportunity that he couldn't afford to miss. He was ideally placed to apply, with his flying experience and academic qualifications. His application joined 8,000 others in the competition to achieve a place!



In 2009, Tim sat multiple exams and assessments, testing his intelligence and skills including memory, spatial awareness and concentration. More than 900 candidates were whittled down to ten – amazingly, Tim was one of them. Weeks went by before Tim finally received a phone call from the ESA offering him one of the six available places to train to be an astronaut with the European Astronaut Corps in Cologne, Germany.

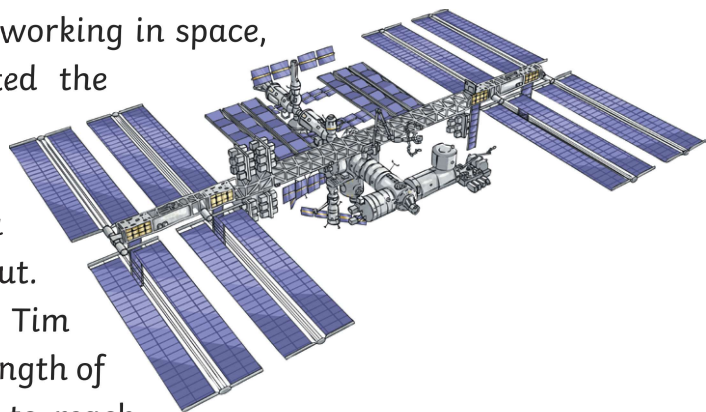
Basic training involved acquiring all of the knowledge needed to become an astronaut including space law, rocket propulsion and space flight engineering. Tim also had to learn to speak Russian (the language used by the ESA training programme). As training progressed, Tim learnt survival skills, CPR (short for cardiopulmonary resuscitation - a medical procedure of repeated cycles of compression of the chest and artificial respiration, performed to help a person who has suffered cardiac arrest) and how to move in zero gravity.

### **Blast Off!**

On 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015, at 11.03 a.m., the nation collectively held their breath as Tim Peake, Yuri Malenchenko and Tim Kopra launched. Tim reached his destination at 5:33 p.m. but the docking procedure did not happen smoothly, meaning the team had to dock manually (by hand, without computers). More than two hours later, the hatch opened and Tim was welcomed onboard, becoming the first British ESA astronaut to inhabit the International Space Station (ISS).

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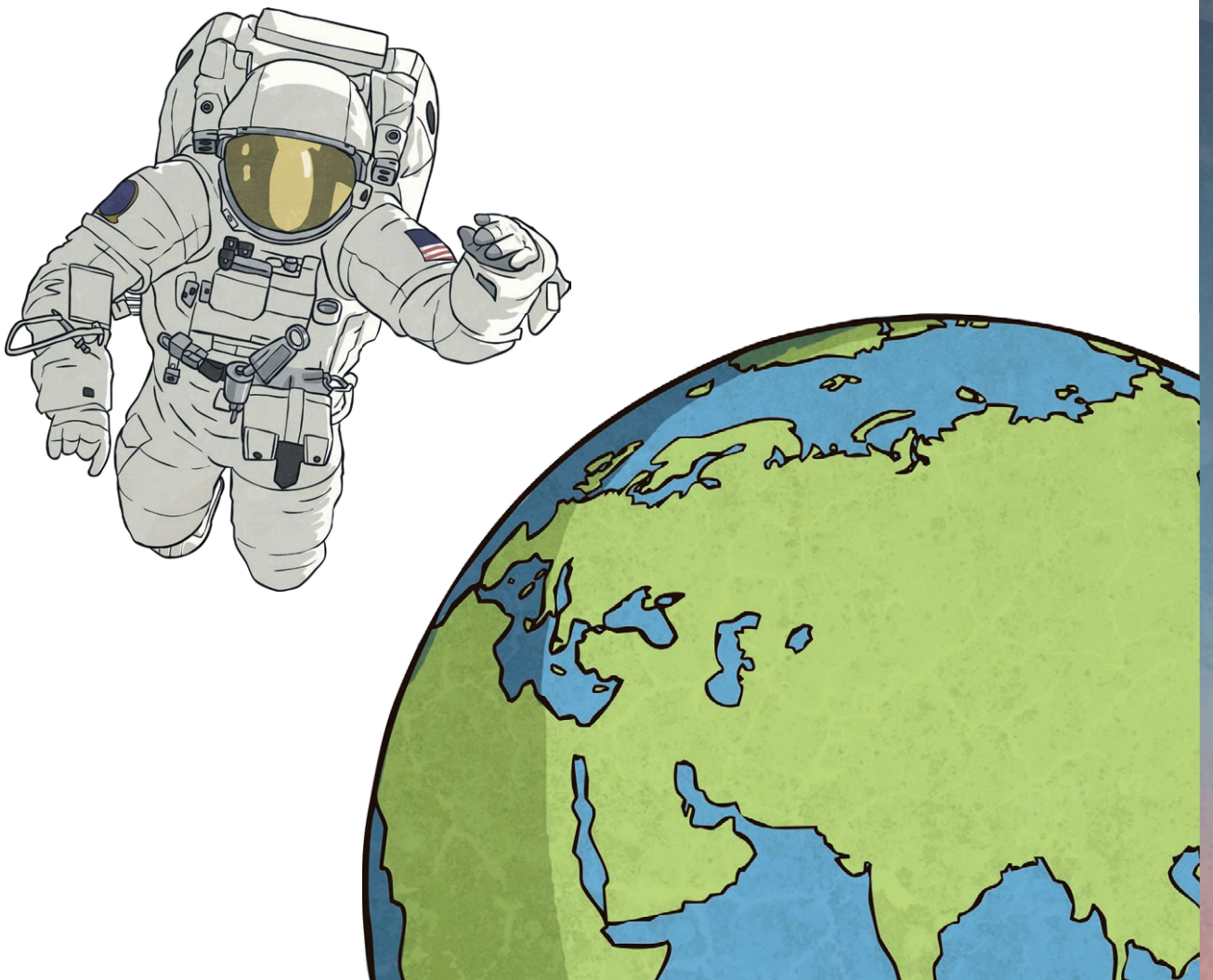
With his crewmate, Tim Kopra, Tim travelled 50 metres (double the length of a normal-sized swimming pool) to reach their maintenance work. The mission was cut short when Tim Kopra reported water in his helmet but the main task had been completed successfully. In addition, Tim completed the London Marathon on the ISS treadmill and appeared via video link at the Brit Awards ceremony.



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Tim commented that, as a child, like many other children, he dreamt of going into space but never seriously considered it a possibility. However, a lifelong fascination with flying, years of training as a pilot and then an astronaut, along with some luck, turned his dream into a reality. While in space and since returning home, Tim has worked a lot with children on various science projects to inspire future generations to strive to become astronauts too.



# Questions

1. In 2005, Tim trained to be an instructor, joining the prestigious Empire Test Pilots' School...

What does **prestigious** mean? Tick one.

- distinguished  
 underprivileged  
 affluent  
 wealthy

2. When was Tim's competence most tested? Tick one.

- during astronaut training  
 during the Balkan Wars  
 when he applied to be an astronaut  
 when he worked as a test pilot

3. 'Tim... enjoyed a stable upbringing...'

What do you think the word **stable** means?

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4. Find and copy the names of **two** astronauts who participated in the journey into space with Tim.

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

5. Find and copy a phrase from the text which shows that the astronauts experienced difficulties when docking with the ISS.

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6. Explain why the author has organised this text with sub-headings.

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7. Summarise what you have read in paragraphs 6-8 in one sentence.

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8. Why might Tim have left the army after 18 years?

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9. Explain why you think Tim spends time working with children.

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10. Do you think that Tim will change careers in the future? Give evidence to support your answer.

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