

# Tim Peake

## Early Life

Timothy 'Tim' Nigel 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.

## 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 8000 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.

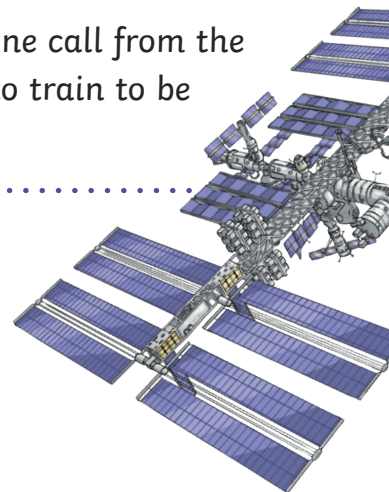
Basic training involved acquiring all of the knowledge needed to become an astronaut, including space law, rocket propulsion and space flight engineering. Tim was also required to learn to speak Russian (the language used by the ESA training programme). As training progressed, Tim learnt survival skills,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



## 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 for the British army.

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 3000 flying hours to become a test pilot - a pilot who flies an aircraft to test its performance.

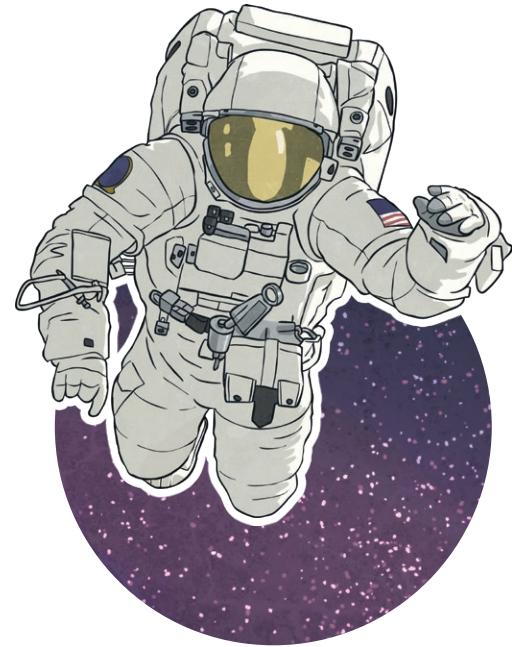


## Blast Off!

On 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015, at 11:03 a.m., the nation held its 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 3000 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

- 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
- Number the following statements in the order in which they happened. 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.
- What was the name of the awards ceremony that Tim attended via video link?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the missing words in this sentence:

More than two hours later, the hatch \_\_\_\_\_ and Tim was welcomed onboard, becoming the first British ESA astronaut to \_\_\_\_\_ the International Space Station (ISS).

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

- 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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6. Why do you think that Tim is so popular?

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

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

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