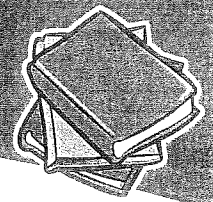


# Ellen Ochoa



Ellen Ochoa is an amazing woman. She was the first female Hispanic astronaut. She is also a scientist, an inventor, and an engineer. On top of all that, she is a talented musician.

10  
20  
32  
33

Ochoa began training to be an astronaut in 1990. She was trained at the Johnson Space Center in Texas. While she was there, she studied the Earth, the ocean, the atmosphere, and medicine.

44  
55  
65  
66

Her first space mission was aboard the shuttle *Discovery* in 1993. The astronauts studied the Earth's atmosphere and climate. Ochoa's job was to operate a robotic arm. The arm recovered a satellite sent up to study space.

75  
84  
95  
103

Her next flight was on the space shuttle *Atlantis* in 1994. For 10 days, the astronauts orbited the Earth. They studied the sun's energy and its effect on the Earth.

114  
124  
133

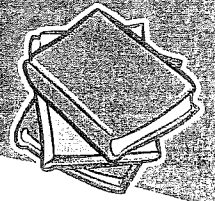
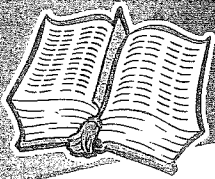
Ochoa's 1999 flight aboard *Discovery* made history. The crew members were from the U.S., Canada, and Russia. On May 29, the shuttle docked on the International Space Station. It was a moment children will read about in school. Ochoa helped prepare the Space Station so astronauts could live there for a long time.

141  
151  
160  
171  
180  
186

Ochoa says, "I never got tired of watching the Earth, day or night. Even [the most beautiful] pictures don't compare with being there," she added.

197  
206  
211

# Mount Etna



Mount Etna is one of the most active volcanoes in the world. It is on the east coast of Sicily, an island off the coast of Italy. It is the largest active volcano in Europe.

Scientists believe Mount Etna first erupted more than two million years ago. It has been erupting for the past three thousand years.

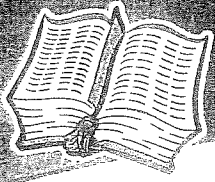
One of the biggest eruptions happened in 1669. For months there were powerful earthquakes. Many people who lived on the side of the mountain grew frightened and moved away.

Finally, in March, a large crack opened on the side of the mountain. A cone-shaped bulge appeared near a small town. The bulge can still be seen today. When the lava began to flow, the town was destroyed.

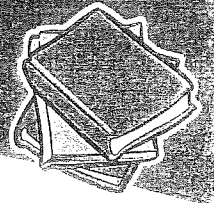
Hot lava rivers can flow for miles when volcanoes erupt. Farther down the mountain, two larger towns in the path of the lava were also destroyed.

As it continued to flow down the mountain, the lava began to pile up against the city walls of Catania. People believed that the walls would save them.

The strong walls held the lava back for a while, but it kept coming. On April 30, the lava finally flowed over the walls. Most of the city was buried under the hot lava.



# A Recipe for Pemmican



Pemmican? What's that? Pemmican was a type of food that Native Americans made for hundreds of years. It was something like today's energy bars—full of vitamins and nutrients. Because it didn't spoil, pemmican was the ideal food to carry on long hunting trips.

To make it, the tribes first hunted for bear or buffalo meat. Then, they would dry the meat and mix it together with dried berries and other ingredients. Finally, they would pound the mixture together and cut it into chunks.

When the pemmican was ready, the tribes would take it with them on long journeys. This meant that they would always have food—even when there was nothing else to eat or hunt. Anytime they wanted some pemmican, they would just break off a piece and pop it into their mouths. If they wanted stew, they could throw some pemmican in water and boil it until it was soft again!

Pemmican kept many people from starving over the long winters and lean times. It was very easy to carry and full of healthy protein. Native Americans even sold it to fur trappers, who carried it on their long hunting expeditions.

So, if anyone ever offers you a taste of pemmican, be sure to give it a try!

9

19

28

37

44

55

66

75

84

94

104

115

124

137

147

154

163

176

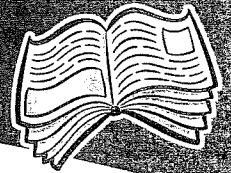
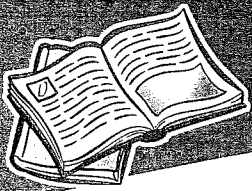
185

194

206

211

# Time Traveler



Juan saw an enormous machine in the middle of the science lab. Out of curiosity, he opened its big metal door and entered the machine. Inside, he saw a brightly lit panel with the date “1857” and the words “Milan, Ohio.” He couldn’t resist pushing the red button next to it. As soon as he pushed the button, the machine began to shake and whir.

When the shaking ceased, Juan leapt for the door to get out of the contraption as fast as possible. But instead of the science lab, he found himself in a forest. Looking around, Juan spotted a boy sitting on the ground, reading.

“What are you doing here?” asked Juan.

“I want to finish this book before it’s too dark to see,” said the boy, who said his name was Tom. Juan remembered learning that Thomas Edison was born in Milan, Ohio, in 1847. He realized that he had traveled back in time and was now talking to a 10-year-old Thomas Edison!

Amazed, Juan said, “Someday you will invent something so you can read books at night.” He was talking about the lightbulb, of course. Tom just looked at him, puzzled.

Juan got back into the machine. He punched in today’s date and the name of his own town, and he traveled back to his own time.

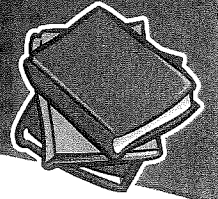
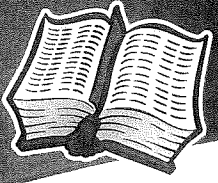


# Jenny, World's Greatest Pet



I have a pooch named Jenny with whom I really love to play.	13
My parents brought her home to me on a fateful day.	24
Jenny is so magnificent. She is brilliant and so sweet,	34
With fuzzy brown fur and some white spots on her feet.	45
Her ears are so attentive, and her eyes are the darkest brown.	57
Jenny slobbers me with kisses going up my face and down.	68
I wish that she could stroll with me as I go to school each day.	83
Instead, she waits for me patiently to come back home and play.	95
First, I do my homework while Jenny lingers at my feet.	106
Then, the time has come for us to enjoy a tasty treat.	118
She yowls with delight, and I join in with a gleeful sound.	130
She understands it is time now to get chased around!	140
And when the moment comes to slumber and go to sleep,	151
Jenny nestles herself right up and lies down at my feet.	162
I adore my sweet dog, Jenny, so I remind her every day	174
How very much it means to me that she is mine to stay.	187
Jenny is the sweetest dog that I have ever met.	197
Without a doubt she has to be the world's greatest pet.	208

# The Planet Mars



Do you think you could live on Mars? Actually, you couldn't unless you were in a space suit or inside a space station. No people could survive on Mars if they didn't bring their own air, food, and water.

10  
22  
33  
39

We could not breathe the Martian air. It doesn't have the oxygen we need to survive.

50  
55

If you went to Mars, you would need a way to stay warm. The average temperature is about 81 degrees below zero.

68  
77

If there ever was water on Mars, it can't be found now. Only minerals left behind when water evaporates have been discovered. Any water that still exists must be hidden beneath the surface.

89  
98  
107  
110

People once thought they could see long, straight canals on Mars. They believed these canals were built by Martians. When we finally could go into space, however, we learned that there are no Martians. If any life is there, it is too tiny to see.

119  
129  
139  
154  
155

We are trying to find out if there ever was life on Mars. Rovers, remote-controlled vehicles, are now searching the planet. One of the reasons rovers were sent there is to see if life exists in any form. Rovers are also helping us learn how people could live on Mars.

168  
176  
189  
201  
206



# The Great Escape



It was supposed to be just an ordinary trip to the zoo. 12  
Today, Noah's class went on a field trip to study the great apes. 25

As they looked over the gorilla enclosure, Noah's teacher, 34  
Mr. Weaver, was lecturing on how gorillas live in groups in 45  
the jungle. A large male gorilla was swinging high in a tree, 57  
watching them. One moment he was hanging from a branch, 67  
and in the next he had thrown himself over the moat that 79  
separated visitors from the animals. 84

The gorilla was standing 15 feet away, eyeing them 93  
suspiciously. Mr. Weaver yelled for everyone to get inside the 103  
ape house. After everyone was in, Mr. Weaver held the glass 114  
door closed. They watched as the gorilla helped himself to 124  
cotton candy from a refreshment stand. Like a giant child, 134  
he stuffed the sticky pink fluff into his mouth. 143

He seemed very happy as a zookeeper silently came up 153  
behind the ape and stuck him with a tranquilizer dart. "He'll 164  
sleep it off and be fine," Mr. Weaver said as the animal 176  
slumped to the ground. 180

It took a dozen men to pick the gorilla up and lift him in 194  
a zoo truck. They put him in a secure cage to transport him 207  
to a safe area. 211

"Our parents won't believe this one," Noah said in 220  
disbelief as they boarded the bus for home. 228



# A New Life



As Abby peeked through a small slit in the back of her family's covered wagon, all she could see were horses, more covered wagons, and miles of prairie in every direction. The 30 families in the wagon train were all heading to California, drawn by the lure of gold.

Gold had been discovered in California in 1848. A few months ago, there was news that a man had scooped precious gold nuggets out of the American River. Abby's father had sold most of their belongings and bought a covered wagon. The family had packed up what was left and was slowly plodding along the California Trail.

Although the wagon was crammed with boxes, her mother found room for a soft featherbed. But no matter what she did to make the wagon comfortable, it was going to be a long, difficult journey.

All the same, Abby knew that her father had good intentions. He wanted a better life for their family. Still, it had been hard to leave all her friends behind. She didn't know what to expect when they finally did get to California. What would happen if they didn't find any gold?

Well, it was too late to think about that now. Abby just wanted to make the most out of her new life out west.