

ASTRONAUT: HELEN SHARMAN

Here is some information about British astronaut, Helen Sharman.



On 30th May, 1963, Helen Sharman was born in Sheffield.

She grew up very interested in science.

Then, one day, listening to the radio, she heard about a competition to pick someone to be an astronaut.

Lots of people – nearly 13,000 – asked to be part of this exciting competition. It was going to be on television.

On 25th November, 1989, Helen won. She was chosen to be the first British astronaut. Helen was the winner because of her skills as a scientist. After that, she had 18 months hard training in Star City in Russia. She had to learn Russian.

On 18th May, 1991, she was launched into space. Most of her eight days in space were spent working in the Mir Space Station.

While she was in space she:

- took photos of the British Isles
- chatted to schoolchildren over the radio
- did experiments with seeds to see how well they grew in space compared to Earth

FUN FACT:

At the time she was chosen, Helen was working for the company that makes Mars bars. Newspaper reporters wrote headlines such as:

Girl from Mars Blasts off to the Stars!

1. When was Helen Sharman born?



2. What happened on 25th November, 1989?

3. How many people did she beat to become the winner?

4. How did she know about the competition?

5. How long did she have to train?

6. At the time of the competition, who was she working for?

7. How long was she in space?

8. Write down **two** things she did while she was in space.
