

An Indian - American woman in space: Kalpana Chawla

Answer the following questions.

1. Where was Kalpana Chawla born? Why is she called an Indian-American?
2. When and why did she go to the U.S.? Who did she marry?
3. How did she become an astronaut? What gave her the idea that she could be an astronaut?
4. What abilities must an astronaut have, according to the journalist?
5. Describe Kalpana Chawla's first mission in space.
6. What does Kalpana Chawla say about pursuing a dream? Do you agree with her that success is possible?

1. Kalpana Chawla was born in Karnal, Haryana. She was called an Indian-American because she was a naturalised U.S. citizen, married to flight instructor Jean-Pierre Harrison.
2. After completing her Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautical engineering, Kalpana Chawla went to the United States of America for a master's degree. She married a flight instructor named Jean-Pierre Harrison.
3. After qualifying as a pilot, Kalpana Chawla applied for NASA's space programme. She was first taken as a research scientist at NASA and was trained as an astronaut. Her success as a pilot motivated her to become an astronaut.
4. An astronaut should know everything from biology to astrophysics to aeronautical engineering. An astronaut should have encyclopaedic knowledge.
5. Kalpana Chawla's first mission in the space shuttle Columbia was 15 days, 16 hours and 34 minutes long. During her journey, she went around the Earth 252 times. There was a Japanese and a Ukrainian astronaut in the crew and they conducted many experiments.
6. About pursuing a dream, Kalpana said that the path from dreams to success does exist. One needs to have the vision to find it, and the courage to get onto it. Yes, success is possible. Her life is an example of that.