

# An Indian-American Woman in space : Kalpana chawla

## Working with the text

1. Where was Kalpana Chawla born? Why is she called an Indian-American?

Ans:- Kalpana Chawla was born in Karnal district of Haryana.

She is called an Indian-American because she was born in India but married to a flight instructor Jean-Pierre Harrison of the USA and got American citizenship.

2. When and why did she go to the U.S.? Who did she marry?

Ans - After a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautics engineering, she went to the USA for a Master's degree.

She married to a flight Instructor Jean-Pierre Harrison.

3. How did she become an astronaut? What gave her the idea that she could be an astronaut?

Ans - After qualifying as a pilot, Kalpana Chawla applied to NASA space shuttle program. She was first hired as a research scientist at NASA. In 1994 she was selected at NASA for training as an astronaut.

It was her success as a pilot which gave her the idea that she could be an astronaut.

4. What abilities must an astronaut have, according to the journalist?

Ans - According to the journalist, one should have enormous abilities to become an astronaut. He / she should know a lot about everything from biology to astrophysics to aeronautical engineering. In this age of super-specialisation one must have encyclopaedic knowledge to be an astronaut.

5. Describe Kalpana chawla's first mission in space.

Ans:- Kalpana chawla's first mission in the space shuttle columbia was 15 days, 16 hours and 34 minutes long. During this time she went around the earth 252 times and travelled 10.45 million Kilometres. There were a Japanese and a Ukrainian astronaut in her crew. They performed many experiments in space. In all about 56 million dollars were spent.

6. What does Kalpana chawla say about pursuing a dream? Do you agree with her that success is possible?

Ans:- Kalpana chawla says that the path from dreams to success does exist but one must have the vision to find it and the courage to get onto it.

Yes, I am agree with her that success is possible.

By Subhash Kumar.