

JOHN GLENN GOES INTO ORBIT

- 1 - 3 This is how the journey into space began. In the pre-dawn hours of February 20th, the launching site at Cape Canaveral buzzed with excitement. Astronaut John Glenn, calm and smiling, is in his space suit. 18
- 4 - 8 After ten postponements, the flight into space is set to go. A huge service tower envelops the 93 foot Atlas rocket that will thrust Glenn into orbit. On top of the rocket is the space capsule, named Friendship Seven. 20
- 9 - 14 Glenn steps into the elevator that will take him to the top. The countdown is well underway. The prayers of millions are with Glenn and the eyes and ears of the world are upon him. (PAUSE) At 6:03 Glenn is inside the space capsule, waiting. 30
- 15 - 17 Now, it is dawn. The sun rises from across the Atlantic Ocean. (HOLD FOR SIGHT CUE) At exactly 9:47, there is a roar and a blinding flash and John Glenn is hurtled on his journey through space. The launching is perfect. He will soon be circling three times around the earth at a speed of 17,000 miles an hour. Glenn is all the while in touch with the ground by radio. He reports that the view is "tremendous". He says: "I feel fine. I have no problems at all." 34

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JOHN GLENN

518 ft.

Colonel John Glenn gets ready for his journey into space from Cape Canaveral, Florida. He is thoroughly aware of the procedure. He has been in training for three years for this trip. He has walked this same path, in this same costume before. This trip has been scheduled before. Ten times it has been postponed because of poor weather conditions. But, -- this time -- in astronaut language -- all is "Go". Tracking stations in the Canary Islands, in Africa, in Australia, in Mexico - around the world have reported ideal conditions. And, by radio and television -- by newspaper bulletins, -- and by film, the entire world is with Colonel Glenn -- as he rides the elevator to the top of the rocket and takes his place inside his space cabin. He has a long way to go -- far out of this world, -- but the whole world will ride with him all along the way.

The sun is up, and at exactly 9:47, Colonel Glenn heads toward it.

Colonel Glenn will be in voice communication with tracking stations all around our planet.

And, -- as he climbs up and up, Colonel Glenn reports how he feels -- the sensations of a ride into space -- and he reports on the performance of his space craft.

Two minutes after leaving the launching pad, Colonel Glenn reports acceleration forces six times greater than the pull of gravity. Though he is out of sight, -- by animated drawings we can see what is happening. The space craft separates from the booster rocket and goes into orbit. Its speed is about 17,500 miles an hour.

A special camera inside the cabin is photographing Colonel Glenn throughout his voyage.

In our drawing, the craft, called Friendship 7, turns to flight position. Colonel Glenn reports by radio:

Colonel Glenn can actually change the position of the Friendship 7 by manual controls. At this stage, in orbit, Colonel Glenn is weightless, -- but he can eat food in plastic tubes.

The first trip around the earth takes just 88½ minutes. At 12:56 PM the second orbit ends. Completing his third orbit, the astronaut has traveled 81,000 miles.

The braking rockets are fired. A special shield protects the cabin from the heat from friction as the space ship re-enters the atmosphere.

A parachute opens and the Friendship 7 gently lands in the sea, only six miles from the Destroyer Noa which has been waiting to receive Colonel Glenn.

The side hatch is blown open -- and Colonel Glenn is on deck. His condition is excellent.

Colonel Glenn is made an honorary member of the ship's crew.

After a preliminary medical checkup, he goes up in the air again, this time by helicopter for a comparatively short hop to the Aircraft Carrier Randolph.

The sun is setting. February 20th has been a long day for Colonel Glenn. He went around the world three times, -- watched the sun rise and set many times.

John Glenn is happy to be back -- and everyone is happy to have him.