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Roberta Bondar (JR): The Exceptional Achievements of Canada's First Woman Astronaut (Amazing Stories)

By Joan Dixon



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From the age of eight, Roberta Bondar knew she wanted to be an astronaut. In January 1992 she made Canadian history when she became the first Canadian woman, and first neurologist, to go into space on board the space shuttle Discovery. The story of her journey to become a leading astronaut is a fascinating tale of hard work, commitment, and sheer guts.



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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

Roberta Bondar - The Exceptional Achievements of Canada's First Woman Astronaut "The feeling in space flight is like hanging by your heels...with all the blood rushing to your head. ...You feel as though you are at the top of a roller coaster when your stomach feels like it is going to lift off." - Dr. Roberta Bondar This book will be especially fascinating for all readers interested in: biography space exploration From the age of eight, Roberta Bondar knew she wanted to be an astronaut. In January 1992 she made Canadian history when she became the first Canadian woman, and first neurologist, to go into space on board Discovery. The story of her journey to become a leading astronaut is a fascinating tale of dedication, commitment, and sheer guts.

About the Author

Stories of Canada and amazing Canadians have always inspired JOAN DIXON's research and she likes to share ones that are different from those in the regular history books. She is the author of *Trailblazing Sports Heroes*, *Roberta Bondar*, *Extreme Canadian Weather*, as well as of books about Canadian icons such as the Avro Arrow and the Calgary Stampede. She is currently based in the foothills of the Rockies. Check out dixanprojects.ca for more information.

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Prologue Roberta Bondar couldn't eat. It wasn't as if she wasn't hungry. Busy and active, she was always hungry. But on this day, Saturday, December 3, 1983, she found food - even a tall, cool glass of her favourite skim milk - unappetizing. A birthday cake was sitting in her kitchen untouched. The family and friends who had gathered to help celebrate her 38th birthday a day early would have to eat it. Roberta was waiting for a phone call - one that could change her life and fulfil a childhood dream. She and the other 18 finalists for the job she had applied for had been told to expect news this evening. Only six would make the cut. Roberta was no stranger to competition. As a woman growing up in the 1950s and 1960s, she was used to being told she couldn't or shouldn't be doing what she was doing. But Roberta always proved them wrong. Playing basketball, tennis, and every other sport she could fit into her schedule, she thrived on the adrenaline. The more cerebral challenges came from the four degrees she had earned by the time she was 31. In all aspects of her life, Roberta had always reached for the top and made it - at least, until now. Would Roberta succeed this time? The job she had applied for was no ordinary job - she wanted to be the first Canadian astronaut in space. Canada was ready to send its own astronauts on the United States' space shuttle, and Roberta was determined to be one of them. At 6:45 p.m., the phone rang. Taking a deep breath, Roberta reached to grab it.

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