



# Astronaut

at a Glance

1  
00:00:05,372 --> 00:00:07,841  
I think its human  
nature to explore.

2  
00:00:07,841 --> 00:00:11,711  
I don't actually think you could  
stop people from doing it, even

3  
00:00:11,711 --> 00:00:13,246  
if you'd like to.

4  
00:00:13,246 --> 00:00:16,616  
I liked chemistry when I was in  
high school, and a lot of that

5  
00:00:16,616 --> 00:00:20,186  
came from one special teacher  
who just thought it was the best

6  
00:00:20,186 --> 00:00:21,755  
thing in the whole world.

7  
00:00:21,755 --> 00:00:26,092  
I went to MIT for undergrad  
and majored in chemistry.

8  
00:00:26,092 --> 00:00:29,162  
I got my PhD in polymer  
science and engineering at the

9  
00:00:29,162 --> 00:00:32,365  
University of Massachusetts at  
Amherst, and then I started my

10  
00:00:32,365 --> 00:00:34,734  
four years of active  
duty in the U.S.

11  
00:00:34,734 --> 00:00:39,072

Air Force, and that continued  
for another 22 years.

12

00:00:39,072 --> 00:00:43,877

I was lucky enough to be  
selected by NASA in 1992, in a

13

00:00:43,877 --> 00:00:45,645

class of 24 people.

14

00:00:45,645 --> 00:00:49,616

First class to have  
international astronauts, and it

15

00:00:49,616 --> 00:00:53,420

was one of the most amazing days  
of my life, when I was told that

16

00:00:53,420 --> 00:00:54,988

I was selected.

17

00:00:54,988 --> 00:00:57,190

I've loved a lot of the jobs  
that I've gotten to do in

18

00:00:57,190 --> 00:01:01,327

between flights, everything  
from payloads and habitability.

19

00:01:01,327 --> 00:01:04,063

That means checking out all the  
different experiments that are

20

00:01:04,063 --> 00:01:08,001

going to go up and making sure  
that the space station is going

21

00:01:08,001 --> 00:01:11,004

to be a place that people  
really want to live.

22

00:01:11,004 --> 00:01:12,605

Do we need to have cabins?

23

00:01:12,605 --> 00:01:14,040

Do we need to have computers?

24

00:01:14,040 --> 00:01:16,042

Do we need to have  
a place to be alone?

25

00:01:16,042 --> 00:01:18,978

How do we design a space station  
that really works for people,

26

00:01:18,978 --> 00:01:19,979

for living?

27

00:01:19,979 --> 00:01:23,116

Part of what I think we try to  
do in the space program, when we