

A portrait of Mike Foale, a NASA astronaut, wearing a dark flight suit. The background is a clear blue sky. A blue horizontal bar is overlaid at the bottom of the image, containing his name and title in white text. A NASA logo is visible on his chest.

**Mike Foale**  
NASA Astronaut

1  
00:00:01,060 --> 00:00:04,010

\h Mike Foale/NASA Astronaut Hi. I'm NASA astronaut Mike Foale.

2  
00:00:04,010 --> 00:00:24,350

\h Music.

3  
00:00:24,350 --> 00:00:29,460

\h My earliest space-related memory was at the age of about six-years-old.

4  
00:00:29,460 --> 00:00:35,760

\h I went to the World State Fair in Minneapolis, Saint Paul, with my mom and grandma,

5  
00:00:35,760 --> 00:00:42,490

\h American grandma, and I saw John Glenn's capsule there. It was back in the 60s, early 60s,

6  
00:00:42,490 --> 00:00:46,250

\h and it was all blackened and it looked charred.

7  
00:00:46,250 --> 00:00:50,490

\h One person only could fit in that capsule and they said that it had been in space.

8  
00:00:50,490 --> 00:00:56,620

\h And I thought, wow I'd like to do that.

9  
00:00:56,620 --> 00:01:03,730

\h Well I've lived on the Mir space station for five months and I've lived on the ISS for six months.

10  
00:01:03,730 --> 00:01:08,490

\h There was about eight year's difference in time between the missions.

11  
00:01:08,490 --> 00:01:15,550

\h Mir was 1997 and I flew on the station in 2003-4. The Russian bit of the space station

12  
00:01:15,550 --> 00:01:17,760

\h is the same, because the Russians had the same

13

00:01:17,760 --> 00:01:22,000

\h technology that they took from Mir and put it onto the International Space Station.

14

00:01:22,000 --> 00:01:27,700

\h Their spacesuits are similar, their rocket is similar. The American part, of course, and the international p

15

00:01:27,700 --> 00:01:32,730

\h the Japanese pieces and the European pieces on the International Space Station, weren't there on Mir.

16

00:01:32,730 --> 00:01:38,800

\h So they're new and different. So there's a little bit of the old and a little bit of the new in the International

17

00:01:38,800 --> 00:01:42,450

\h However, the experience of living in space for four-and-a-half months on

18

00:01:42,450 --> 00:01:50,080

\h Mir and six months on the International Space Station, pretty much the same.

19

00:01:50,080 --> 00:01:55,160

\h The good thing about being an astronaut today at NASA is being part of an international program.

20

00:01:55,160 --> 00:02:00,970

\h I was a terrible language student when I was a kid in school. However, when I was sent to

21

00:02:00,970 --> 00:02:05,840

\h Russia to study the Mir space station, and lived there with my family four-and-a-half years,

22

00:02:05,840 --> 00:02:10,910

\h I learned Russian, I had Russian friends, and I learned about the Russian culture and history.

23

00:02:10,910 --> 00:02:17,560

\h I've become much more humanistic and it's of great value to me. I'm still a good scientist.

24

00:02:17,560 --> 00:02:24,840

\h So taking part in other countries' missions is a positive thing and it lets me get new

25

00:02:24,840 --> 00:02:32,050

\h friends and learn new approaches to solving problems in space.

26

00:02:32,050 --> 00:02:39,360

\h To get ready to become an astronaut, you need to study hard in school, math and science, physics.

27

00:02:39,360 --> 00:02:46,620

\h I thought quite hard about what it would take to be either a test pilot astronaut or a scientist astronaut.

28

00:02:46,620 --> 00:02:53,070

\h I chose the science route and did well on my exams. I also did the outdoor things like, scuba diving,

29

00:02:53,070 --> 00:02:59,510

\h and I learned to fly and I followed all of the interests that go around space flight.