

Speaker: Lingokids.

Speaker: Whoa. No way.

Speaker: What are you reading, Elliot?

Speaker: Shh, I'm finishing the last pages. Amazing.

Speaker: Oh, what's your book about?

Speaker: A person who floats.

Speaker: What?

Speaker: A person who floats.

Speaker: Is it magic?

Speaker: No, not magic.

Speaker: It is?

Speaker: Shh, I'm trying to finish.

Speaker: Elliot, tell us who's floating.

Speaker: Elliot, tell us who's floating.

Speaker: Welcome to *Stories for Kids* by Lingokids, where we discover fascinating facts about the world around us and the fun of Playlearning. Happy Hispanic Heritage Month. Today, we're learning a little bit about one Latina scientist who is out of this world. Why is she floating? Let's find out.

Speaker: Are you done with your book yet?

Speaker: Just finished.

Speaker: Elliot, tell us who it's about.

Speaker: Her name is Ellen Ochoa.

Speaker: I've never heard of her. Why was she floating?

Speaker: Because she was in space.

Speaker: Wow.

Speaker: Wow

[Billy chirping]

Speaker: True, Billy, everything in space floats because there's no gravity.

Speaker: What's gravity?

Speaker: Gravity is what keeps you and all of us on the ground. It also makes things fall. Without gravity, objects just float around.

Speaker: Gravity is also why Ellen Ochoa didn't eat bread.

Speaker: What?

Speaker: Huh?

Speaker: Well, she didn't eat bread in space because the crumbs would float away.

Speaker: Oh.

Speaker: Oh.

Speaker: What did she use for sandwiches?

Speaker: Tortillas, because they don't have crumbs.

Speaker: Good idea, Ellen Ochoa.

Speaker: She has lots of good ideas.

Speaker: Is Ellen Ochoa an astronaut?

Speaker: Yes, and I think she is the coolest astronaut ever. That's why I'm going to be just like her. Want to know some more things about her?

Speaker: Yes.

Speaker: Yes.

Speaker: She went to space four times.

Speaker: Cool.

Speaker: Cool.

Speaker: She brought her flute to space. That's an instrument. She controlled a robot in space.

Speaker: Ellen Ochoa has done so many things in space.

Speaker: Yes. When she was finished going to space, Ellen helped other astronauts go there.

Speaker: How did she do that?

Speaker: She worked at a space place.

Speaker: Space place.

[laughter]

Speaker: She really did work at a space place. It's called the NASA Johnson Space Center. Dr. Ochoa was the director there. There's another special thing about Ellen Ochoa, too.

Speaker: What is it?

Speaker: She was the first Hispanic woman to go to space.

Speaker: Oh.

Speaker: Oh.

Speaker: Oh, but wait, why is that special? Can't any kind of person go to space?

Speaker: Well, yes, any person can become an astronaut but, Latino people, especially women, did not always have the opportunity, so being the first is a really big deal.

Speaker: Huh.

Speaker: Ellen Ochoa was an example for other Hispanic women. After Ellen Ochoa, they could imagine themselves going to space, too.

Speaker: Cool.

Speaker: Ellen Ochoa's first mission was in 1993 on the space shuttle, Discovery. This year is the 30th anniversary of her first visit to space.

Speaker: Happy 30th anniversary to space, Ellen Ochoa.

Speaker: Let's clap for her. Kids at home, you can clap too.

[clapping]

Speaker: Yay.

Speaker: Yay.

Speaker: Yay.

Speaker: Speaking of going to space, I think I'll go. Cowy, pass me my space clothes.

Speaker: Here you go, Elliot.

Speaker: Well, slow down, Elliot. It's wonderful you're excited to go to space, but I think there are a lot of things to know and practice before you could be an astronaut.

Speaker: No, I'm pretty sure I can just go. I think floating will be easy for me, and I love tortillas already.

[laughter]

Speaker: Well, I still think there's more to it than being a natural at floating and loving tortillas.

Speaker: Like what?

Speaker: Well, I'm not sure what. Why don't we travel back in time to see how Ellen Ochoa did it?

Speaker: Yes.

Speaker: Yes.

Speaker: The first snapshot is of Ellen Ochoa at home when she was a kid.

Speaker: Ellen grew up in a busy house.

Speaker: She has a big family.

Speaker: Look, I see her over there. She just finished a big pile of homework.

Speaker: Ah, she's smiling. She must really like school.

Speaker: I think she works hard.

Speaker: Ellen Ochoa did like school and she did a lot of it, eventually earning three degrees. Elliot, what did Ellen Ochoa do when she was a kid that helped her become an astronaut?

Speaker: She worked really hard at school.

Speaker: Yes. Now, let's travel to another time.

Speaker: Yes.

Speaker: Yes.

Speaker: Yes.

Speaker: Let's peek at Ellen Ochoa in the marching band in high school.

Speaker: There she is, playing the flute.

Speaker: She's watching the conductor so she can play her notes at the right time.

Speaker: She's making music exactly with the other flute players. She's paying attention to them so they can sound good as a group.

Speaker: Yes. Ellen Ochoa played her flute in groups like concert band, marching band, and orchestra. She practiced working together with others by playing music with them. Elliot, what do you think Ellen Ochoa learned?

Speaker: I think she learned how to be a good teammate.

Speaker: Yes, and that's an important skill for an astronaut. Now, let's visit one more time in her life.

Speaker: Yes.

Speaker: Yes.

Speaker: Yes.

Speaker: Now, Ellen's a grown-up.

Speaker: She's getting something out of the mailbox.

Speaker: Look, that envelope says NASA.

Speaker: I bet she's going to find out if she got into astronaut training.

Speaker: [cries]

Speaker: Oh, no. She didn't get in, but she wants to be an astronaut so bad.

Speaker: It's true. She didn't get in. She was turned down twice, actually.

Speaker: Oh, no. I feel sad for her. When I don't get picked for something, I get embarrassed.

Speaker: Ellen Ochoa didn't spend too much time worrying. Instead, she learned how to fly a plane so she'd have a better chance of getting picked next time.

Speaker: Wow.

Speaker: Wow.

Speaker: Wow.

Speaker: Elliot, what do you think Ellen Ochoa learned?

Speaker: Not to give up. She kept trying even after someone told her no.

Speaker: She believed in herself.

Speaker: Yes. Okay, time to go home.

Speaker: That was an exciting day.

Speaker: I guess being an astronaut is more than floating and eating tortillas.

[laughter]

Speaker: Lingokids listeners, thanks for joining today's spacey Journey with Ellen Ochoa, the first Hispanic woman astronaut. We learned some steps you can take if

you would like to be an astronaut just like Dr. Ochoa one day. Study hard in school, practice being a good teammate, and believe in yourself. See you in space.

[music]

[00:08:17] [END OF AUDIO]