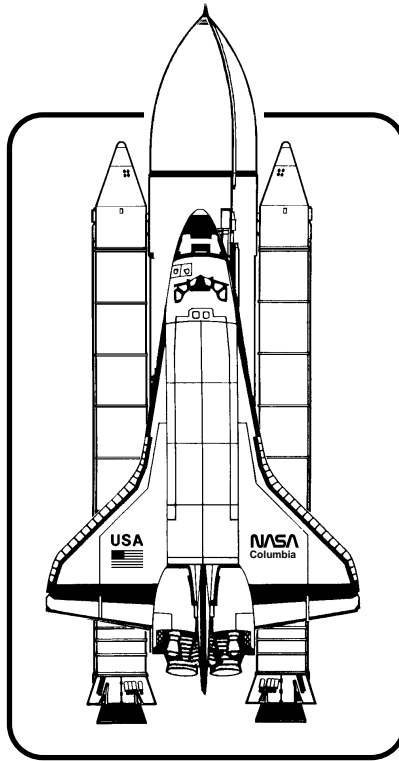


Columbia (OV-102)

America's fleet of Space Shuttle orbiters are named after pioneering sea vessels which established new frontiers in research and exploration.

NASA delved through the history books to find ships which achieved historical significance through discoveries about the world's oceans or the Earth itself. Another important criterion in the selection process was consideration for the international nature of the Space Shuttle program.

Columbia, the oldest orbiter in the Shuttle fleet, is named after the Boston, Massachusetts-based sloop captained by American Robert Gray. On May 11, 1792, Gray and his crew maneuvered the Columbia past the dangerous sandbar at the mouth of a river extending more than 1,000 miles through what is today southeastern British Columbia, Canada, and the Washington-Oregon border. The river was later named after the ship. Gray also led Columbia and its crew on the first American circumnavigation of the globe, carrying a



cargo of otter skins to Canton, China, and then returning to Boston.

Other sailing ships have further enhanced the luster of the name Columbia. The first U.S. Navy ship to circle the globe bore that title, as did the command module for Apollo 11, the first lunar landing mission.

On a more directly patriotic note, "Columbia" is con-

sidered to be the feminine personification of the United States. The name is derived from that of another famous explorer, Christopher Columbus.

The spaceship Columbia has continued the pioneering legacy of its forebears, becoming the first Space Shuttle to fly into Earth orbit in 1981. Four sister ships joined the fleet over the next 10 years: Challenger, arriving in 1982 but destroyed four years later; Discovery, 1983; Atlantis, 1985; and Endeavour, built as a replacement for Challenger, 1991. A test vehicle, the Enterprise, was used for suborbital approach and landing tests and did not fly in space. The names of Columbia's sister ships each boast their own illustrious pedigree.

In the day-to-day world of Shuttle operations and processing, Space Shuttle orbiters go by a more prosaic designation. Columbia is commonly referred to as OV-102, for Orbiter Vehicle-102. Discovery, Atlantis and Endeavour are, respectively, OV-103, OV-104, and OV-105.

Flights of Columbia (OV-102)

(1981 to date)

Times OV-102 Flown	Mission Name	Crew	Launch Pad	Launch Date	Landing Date & Site	Primary Payload
1	STS-1	Young, Crippen	39A	04/12/81	04/14/81 At Edwards	—
2	STS-2	Engle, Truly	39A	11/12/81	11/14/81 At Edwards	OSTA-1
3	STS-3	Lousma, Fullerton	39A	03/22/82	03/30/82 At White Sands	OSS-1
4	STS-4	Mattingly, Hartsfield	39A	06/27/82	07/04/82 At Edwards	DOD 82-1
5	STS-5	Brand, Overmyer, Lenoir, Allen	39A	11/11/82	11/16/82 At Edwards	SBS-C Anik C-3
6	STS-9	Young, Shaw, Parker, Garriott, Merbold, Lichtenberg	39A	11/28/83	12/08/83 At Edwards	Spacelab-1
7	61-C	Gibson, Bolden, Chang-Diaz, Hawley, Nelson, Cenker, Nelson	39A	01/12/86	01/18/86 At Edwards	SATCOM Ku-1
8	STS-28	Shaw, Richards, Leestma, Adamson, Brown	39B	08/08/89	08/13/89 At Edwards	DOD
9	STS-32	Brandenstein, Wetherbee, Dunbar, Ivins, Low	39A	01/09/90	01/20/90 At Edwards	SYNCOM IV-5 LDEF retrieval
10	STS-35	Brand, Gardner, Lounge, Hoffman, Parker, Parise, Durrance	39B	12/02/90	12/10/90 At Edwards	Astro-1
11	STS-40	O'Connor, Gutierrez, Jernigan, Seddon, Bagian, Gaffney, Hughes-Fulford	39B	06/05/91	06/14/91 At Edwards	SLS-1
12	STS-50	Richards, Bowersox, Dunbar, Baker, Meade, DeLucas, Trinh	39A	06/25/92	07/09/92 At KSC	USML-1
13	STS-52	Wetherbee, Baker, Veach, Jernigan, Shepherd, MacLean	39B	10/22/92	11/1/92 At KSC	LAGEOS II USMP-1
14	STS-55	Nagel, Hendricks, Ross, Precourt, Harris, Walter, Schlegel	39A	4/26/93	5/6/93 At KSC	Spacelab-D2
15	STS-58	Blaha, Searfoss, Seddon, McArthur, Wolf, Lucid, Fettman	39B	10/18/93	11/1/93 At Edwards	SLS-2
16	STS-62	Casper, Allen, Thuot, Gemar, Ivins	39B	3/4/94	3/18/94 At KSC	OAST-2 USMP-2
17	STS-65	Cabana, Halsell, Haib, Thomas, Walz, Chiao, Naito-Mukai	39A	7/8/94	7/23/94 At KSC	IML-2
18	STS-73	Bowersox, Rominger, Thornton, Lopez-Alegria, Coleman, Sacco, Leslie	39B	10/20/95	11/5/95 At KSC	USML-2