

# Evaluating Evidence

Read the first two paragraphs about Alan Shepard.

Alan Shepard was the first American in space. He was one of NASA's first seven astronauts. Later, he walked on the moon during the Apollo program.

Alan Shepard was born on Nov. 18, 1923. He was born in East Derry, N.H., and grew up there. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Naval Academy. He served on a Navy ship in the Pacific Ocean during World War II. After the war, Shepard entered flight training and earned his pilot's wings. He graduated from Naval Test Pilot School and Naval War College. In April 1959, NASA selected Shepard as a member of its first group of seven astronauts. (Hitt)

All of the evidence was about Alan Shepard, but not all of the evidence explains why Alan Shepard was a qualified astronaut. Re-read the sentences about Alan Shepard. Which of the sentences below could be used as evidence to show Alan Shepard was a qualified astronaut?

1. He was born in East Derry, N.H.
2. NASA selected Shepard as a member of its first group of seven astronauts.
3. He graduated from Naval Test Pilot School and Naval War College.
4. He served on a Navy ship in the Pacific Ocean during World War II.
5. Shepard was born on Nov. 18, 1923.
6. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Naval Academy.

Read the rest of the article about Alan Shepard and take notes using the Cornell template.

# Alan Shepard

Alan Shepard was the first American in space. He was one of NASA's first seven astronauts. Later, he walked on the moon during the Apollo program.

Alan Shepard was born on Nov. 18, 1923. He was born in East Derry, N.H., and grew up there. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Naval Academy. He served on a Navy ship in the Pacific Ocean during World War II. After the war, Shepard entered flight training and earned his pilot's wings. He graduated from Naval Test Pilot School and Naval War College. In April 1959, NASA selected Shepard as a member of its first group of seven astronauts. (Hitt)

On May 5, 1961, Alan Shepard became the first American in space. He flew on a one-person Mercury spacecraft that he named Freedom 7. It launched on a Redstone rocket. On this flight, Shepard did not orbit Earth. He flew 116 miles high and then returned safely. The flight lasted about 15 ½ minutes. The mission was a success.

After his first flight, Shepard developed a medical problem. An inner ear problem stopped him from flying in space. NASA named Shepard as chief of the Astronaut Office. He helped select new astronauts, plan missions and make sure astronauts were ready to fly. Later, he had surgery to fix the ear problem, and he was able to fly again. Almost 10 years passed between his first and second flights.

Shepard's second spaceflight was on the Apollo 14 mission to the moon. He was commander of a crew that included Stuart Roosa and Edgar Mitchell. The Apollo spacecraft was launched on a Saturn V (5) rocket.

On Feb. 15, 1971, Shepard and Mitchell landed on the moon. (Roosa stayed in orbit around the moon while the other two landed.) During two moonwalks, Shepard and Mitchell collected more than 100 pounds of moon rocks. They conducted scientific experiments on the lunar surface. Shepard also became the first person to hit a golf ball on the moon, showing how far it would go in the moon's lower gravity.

After his second flight, Shepard returned to his job as head of the Astronaut Office. He retired from NASA in 1974. Shepard worked in private business. He also did volunteer work to support education and to help people learn about spaceflight. Shepard died of leukemia in 1998. (Hitt)

Hitt, David. "Who Was Shepard?" NASA. Ed. Sandra May. NASA, 16 Sept. 2015. Web. 24 July 2016.

# Alan Shepard Cornell Notes

Title: Who Was Alan Shepard?

Purpose: To inform about Alan Shepard

## Vocabulary

- Spaceflight
- Lunar
- Gravity
- 

## Questions

- What happened on Alan Shepard's first Spaceflight?
- What happened after Shepard's first spaceflight?
- What happened on Alan Shepard's second spaceflight?
- What happened after Shepard's second spaceflight?

Summary:

