

Modern World History
Research Topic-John Glenn

Research Topic	John Glenn, born July 18, 1921 – died, December 8, 2016
Grade Level	High School/Grades 9 – 12
Time Required	1 class period (45-60 minutes)
Ohio’s Learning Standards History Strand	Modern World History- Historical Thinking and Skills Students apply skills by utilizing a variety of resources to construct theses and support or refute contentions made by others. Alternative explanations of historical events are analyzed and questions of historical inevitability are explored. Ohio Learning Standards-Social Studies-Adopted 2018
Common Core Standards	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, attending to such features as the date and origin of the information. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole.
Objective	Students will gain an understanding of the life and legacy of John Glenn and his contributions to American society through politics, science, business, and his commitment to public service.
Research Statement	John Glenn’s life is an example of what it means to be a true patriot, to embrace the duty of service, and to honor one’s country through his selfless acts and dedication to a greater cause making him the ultimate American hero.
Military Service	John Glenn, Veteran United States Navy, United States Marines, 1941 – 1965 Rank – Colonel Battles/Wars – WWII, Chinese Civil War, Korean War NASA Astronaut Time in Space – 4 hours, 55 minutes, 23 seconds NASA Payload Specialist Time in Space – 9 days, 19 hours, 54 minutes, 2 seconds
Introduction	The National Veterans Memorial and Museum’s foundation rest upon the vision, optimism, and fortitude of the late John Glenn as a beacon in Columbus, Ohio, honoring the service and sacrifice of our nation’s Veterans. Glenn, Marine, pilot, engineer, astronaut, corporate executive, and senator was born in Cambridge, Ohio, on July 18, 1921, the son of John and Clara Glenn. At age two, young John moved with his parents to New Concord, Ohio, where his father opened a plumbing business. During his childhood in New Concord, which he described as idyllic, he developed an early interest in science, a fascination with flying, and a sense of patriotism that would define his adult life. Shortly after the United States entered World War II, Glenn enlisted in the Naval Aviation Cadet Program and became a Marine pilot. He flew 59 combat missions in the South Pacific during World War II. When the Korean War began, Glenn asked for combat duty and flew 63 missions. For his total of 149 missions during the two wars, he received many decorations, including the Distinguished Flying Cross six times. After the Korean War, Glenn attended test pilot school and then served as a test pilot for Naval and Marine aircraft. One of his most notable accomplishments as a test pilot was setting the 1957 speed record flying from Los Angeles to New York in three hours and 23 minutes. This secured Glenn’s reputation as one of the country’s top test pilots and provided a steppingstone for his participation in the emerging space exploration program.

<p>Supporting Idea I</p>	<p>In 1959, NASA selected Glenn as one of the first seven astronauts in the U.S. space program – see the movie <i>The Right Stuff</i>. On February 20, 1962, atop an Atlas rocket, he rode into space and piloted the Friendship 7 spacecraft around the globe three times, becoming the first American to orbit the earth. While Glenn's flight on Friendship 7 was a glorious national triumph, two problems arose that could have been disastrous. The first was a failure of the automatic control system. Confident that he could do it, Glenn went to manual control and continued in that mode during the second and third orbits, and during re-entry. The second problem was that telemetry indicated the spacecraft's heat shield was loose. It seemed possible that Glenn and the spacecraft would be incinerated on re-entry. Glenn left the retrorocket pack in place to steady the heat shield during re-entry. It worked. Both events were important feats because they proved the value of having a human being pilot a spacecraft.</p>
<p>Supporting Idea II</p>	<p>Glenn found out that NASA's plans for him did not include another flight assignment. He resigned as an astronaut on Jan. 16, 1964. He was promoted to colonel in October 1964 and retired from the Marine Corps on Jan. 1, 1965. He entered the Ohio Democratic primary challenging the incumbent Democratic Sen. Stephen M. Young. An accident forced him to leave the race early in the campaign and to put his political career on hold. After recovery from the accident, Glenn joined Royal Crown Cola as vice president and then president. Still interested in public service, Glenn again ran for the senate. His opponent, Howard Metzenbaum, defeated him in the 1970 primaries. In 1974, Glenn made a third run for the senate. This time he won his Senate seat carrying all 88 counties of Ohio. He was re-elected in 1980 with the largest margin in Ohio history. Ohio returned him to the Senate for a third term in 1986, again with a substantial majority. In 1992 he was elected again, becoming the first popularly elected senator from his state to win four consecutive terms. Always near the center of Democratic politics, he was a contender for the vice-presidential nomination three times and ran in the Democratic primaries as a presidential candidate in 1984.</p>
<p>Supporting Idea III</p>	<p>During his last term he was the ranking member of both the Governmental Affairs Committee and the Subcommittee on Air/Land Forces in the Senate Armed Services Committee. He also served on the Select Committee on Intelligence and the Special Committee on Aging. He was considered one of the Senate's leading experts on technical and scientific matters and won wide respect for his work to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction. He took pride in using his position on the Governmental Affairs Committee to root out waste in government and to clean up the nation's nuclear materials production plants. On February 20, 1997, Glenn announced that he would retire from the senate. A year later, NASA invited him to rejoin the space program he had helped to create as a member of the Space Shuttle Discovery Crew. He accepted the invitation and on October 29, 1998, he became the oldest human ever to venture into space. Upon his retirement from the senate and return from space, John and Annie Glenn founded the John Glenn Institute for Public Service at the Ohio State University. Through its programs, they sought to improve the quality of public service and to encourage young people to pursue careers in government. Additionally, they also served as trustees of Muskingum University, their alma mater.</p>
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p>John Glenn was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross on six occasions and holds the Air Medal with 18 Clusters for his service during World War II and Korea. He also received the Navy Unit Commendation for service in Korea, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the China Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, the Navy's astronaut Wings, the Marine Corps' Astronaut Medal, the NASA Distinguished Service Medal, and the Congressional Space Medal of Honor. Though honored many times as a national hero, he was described by many as humble, funny, and generous. Even after leaving public life, he continued to meet with citizens, particularly school children. He was delighted by music and had a weakness for chocolate. John Glenn died on December 8, 2016. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, located in Washington, D.C.</p>

	The National Veterans Memorial and Museum honors the service and sacrifice of our nation's Veterans by sharing their stories and connecting students to the Veteran experience. Visit our website www.nationalvmm.org for more educational resources.
Recommended Readings	Carpenter, M. Scott, Cooper, Gordon L., Glenn, John H., Grissom, Virgil I., Schirra, Walter M., Shepard, Alan B., Slayton, Donald K. <i>We Seven: By the Astronauts Themselves</i> , Simon & Schuster Publishers, 2010 Editors, Charles River. <i>John Glenn: The Life and Legacy of the First American Astronaut to Orbit Earth</i> , Independently published, 2019 George, Alice L. <i>The Last American Hero: The Remarkable Life of John Glenn</i> , Chicago Review Press, 2020 Glenn, John and Taylor, Nick. <i>John Glenn: A Memoir</i> , Bantam Publisher, 1999
Resources	http://johnglennhome.org/about/john-glenn/ https://www.nasa.gov/content/profile-of-john-glenn https://www.biography.com/astronaut/john-glenn https://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/k-4/stories/nasa-knows/who-is-john-glenn-k4.html https://www.britannica.com/biography/John-Glenn https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ElzIPn1pXWE The Right Stuff, rated PG, Drama/Adventure, 1983 <i>Hidden Figures</i> , rated PG, Drama/History, 2016
Visual Thinking Strategies	Visual Thinking Strategies transforms the way students think and learn by providing training and curriculum for people to facilitate discussions of visual art that significantly increase student engagement, performance and enjoyment of learning. https://vtshome.org/about/
Assignment	Have students take 3-5 minutes to look at the images. Ask students to describe what they see in the images. Ask students what more can they tell you about the images. Ask why?
Assessment	Using visual cues, students should observe and discuss people, the way individuals are dressed, the activity of individuals, if individuals look familiar landscapes, backgrounds, etc. Students should be able to articulate what they see in each image using visual thinking strategies.
Critical Thinking Questions	1. What do you think were some aspects of John Glenn's character that contributed his being to successfully transitions from one career to another? 2. How does someone develop or acquire those characteristics? 3. How does John Glenn's patriotism and commitment to service compare to those serving in the U.S. Senate today?
Activity Kits	www.amazon.com Discovery DIY Launch Propulsion Rocket by Horizon Group USA, Great Stem Science DIY Kit According to www.nasa.gov , a spacecraft leaving the surface of the earth needs to be going about 7 miles per second or over 25,000 miles per hour to enter orbit. Imagine how John Glenn felt the first time he went to outer space. Try to build your own rocket at home. How to build a rocket at home: (some supplies needed) https://www.digitaltrends.com/cool-tech/how-to-build-a-rocket/#:~:text=All%20you%20need%20is%20baking,the%20greater%20the%20thrust%20capacity.



On October 29, 1998, Glenn returned to space on the space shuttle Discovery and made history again as the oldest person to enter space at the age of 77.

[\(Photo: NASA \[Public domain\], via Wikimedia Commons\)](#)



Glenn's official portrait as one of NASA's original seven Mercury astronauts.
Credits: NASA



John Glenn climbs into his Friendship 7 capsule for his historic flight on Feb. 20, 1962.
https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/314095main_image_1288_full.jpg



John Glenn in action in the United States Senate
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Glenn#/media/File:John_Glenn_Senate.jpg



Senator Glenn joined the STS-95 Discovery crew in 1998, becoming the oldest person to fly in space at 77.

https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/464355main_98_04616_full.jpg



John Glenn College of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Glenn_College_of_Public_Affairs#/media/File:GlennSchool.jpg

