

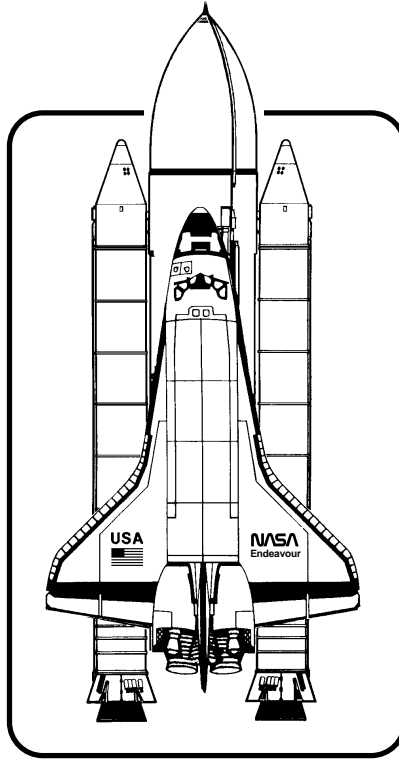
Endeavour (OV-105)

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.

Endeavour, the newest addition to the four-orbiter fleet, is named after the first ship commanded by James Cook, the 18th century British explorer, navigator and astronomer. On Endeavour's maiden voyage in August 1768, Cook sailed to the South Pacific to observe and record the infrequent event of the planet Venus passing between the Earth and the sun. Determining the transit of Venus enabled early astronomers to find the distance of the sun from the Earth, which then could be used as a unit of measurement in calculating the parameters of the universe. Cook also discovered and charted New Zealand, surveyed the eastern coast of Australia and navigated the Great Barrier Reef there.

Cook's voyage on the Endeavour also established the usefulness of sending scientists



on voyages of exploration. While sailing with Cook, naturalists Joseph Banks and Carl Solander collected many new families and species of plants, and encountered numerous new species of animals.

Endeavour and her crew reportedly made the first long-distance voyage on which no crewman died from scurvy, the dietary disease caused by lack of ascorbic acids. Cook is credited with being the first captain to use diet as a cure for scurvy, when he made his crew eat cress, sauerkraut and an orange extract.

The Endeavour was small at about 368 tons, 100 feet in

length and 20 feet in width. She had a round bluff bow and a flat bottom. The ship's career ended on a reef along Rhode Island.

For the first time, a national competition involving students in elementary and secondary schools produced the name of the new orbiter; it was announced by President George Bush in 1989. The Space Shuttle orbiter Endeavour was delivered to Kennedy Space Center in May 1991, and flew its first mission, highlighted by the dramatic rescue of a stranded communications satellite, a year later in May 1992.

The first orbiter to fly in space was Columbia in 1981. Three others preceded Endeavour: Challenger, which arrived in 1982 and was destroyed shortly after liftoff four years later (Endeavour replaced it); Discovery in 1983; and Atlantis in 1985. A test vehicle, the Enterprise, was used for suborbital approach and landing tests, and did not fly in space.

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

Flights of Endeavour (OV-105)

Times OV-105 Flown	Mission Name	Crew	Launch Pad	Launch Date	Landing Date & Site	Primary Payload or Mission
1	STS-49	Brandenstein, Chilton, Melnick, Akers, Hieb, Thuot, Thornton	39B	5/7/92	5/16/92 At Edwards	Rescue, Redeploy INTELSAT VI (F-3)
2	STS-47	Gibson, Brown, Lee, Davis, Apt, Jemison, Mohri	39B	9/12/92	9/20/92 At KSC	Spacelab-J
3	STS-54	Casper, McMonagle, Harbaugh, Runco, Helms	39B	1/13/93	1/19/93 At KSC	Tracking and Data Relay Satellite (TDRS-F)
4	STS-57	Grabe, Duffy, Low, Sherlock, Voss, Wisoff	39B	6/21/93	7/1/93 At KSC	SPACEHAB; EURECA Retrieval
5	STS-61	Covey, Bowersox, Musgrave, Hoffman, Thornton, Akers, Nicollier	39B	12/2/93	12/13/93 At KSC	Hubble Space Telescope (HST) First Servicing Mission
6	STS-59	Gutierrez, Chilton, Godwin, Apt, Clifford, Jones	39A	4/9/94	4/20/94	Space Radar Laboratory-1 (SRL-1)
7	STS-68	Baker, Wilcutt, Jones, Bursch, Wisoff, Smith	39A	9/30/94	10/11/94	Space Radar Laboratory-2 (SRL-2)
8	STS-67	Oswald, Gregory, Jernigan, Lawrence, Grunsfeld, Durrance, Parise	39A	3/2/95	3/18/95 At Edwards	Astro-2
9	STS-69	Walker, Cockrell, Voss, Newman, Gernhardt	39A	9/7/95	9/18/95 At KSC	Wake Shield Facility-2; Spartan-201-3