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## The Challenger Disaster

The Challenger is a space shuttle developed by NASA. It had a total of nine completed missions and its tenth one failed. The Challenger's tenth mission was name STS-51-L which was meant to deploy the TDR-SB in space in order to be a part of the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System. All of this was meant to improve satellite tracking for the U.S. The Challenger's tenth mission was also meant to began the era of the Teacher in Space program. The Challenger's crew included: Francis Scobee, Gregory Jarvis, Michael Smith, Ellison Onizuka, Judith Resnik, Ronald McNair, and Christa McAuliffe who was also supposed to be the first teacher in space. On 1/28/1986 many people across the country tuned in to watch the Challenger's ascent into space. However what they saw shocked the entire nation. Seventy three seconds after lift off the O-Ring seal in the Challenger's right booster ruptured which allowed hot gas to escape. Internal damage was then caused to the booster's structure which allowed it to escape and crash into the fuel tank. After the rockets impact with the fuel tank the entire shuttle exploded into fragments all over the Atlantic. None of the crew members survived. the night after the disaster President Reagan gave a speech through television that informed America about the events of that day. Several days later Reagan gave another speech, but this time at the Johnson Space Center, which honored the astronauts. After the disaster, NASA did not launch any shuttles for the next two years. During this time, the organization improved its rockets as well as its staff. Moreover, the Teacher in Space Program was halted. Eventually, NASA launched the Discover on 9/29/1988. However, the Teacher in Space program was not continued until the twentieth first century when it was rebooted by private sectors.