# AWESOME

## Columbia Space Shuttle Explosion

# O. Columbia Space Shuttle Explosion - Story Preface

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- 10. COLUMBIA IS LOST



The Launch of STS-1, Space Shuttle Columbia. Photo online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

It's gone. There are no survivors.

President George W. Bush February 1, 2003

Ronald Reagan, a <u>survivor</u> of John Hinkley's bullet, studied the television screen as <u>Columbia</u> - America's first shuttle - <u>blasted</u> into space. It was <u>April 12, 1981</u>. The <u>President had been shot</u> two weeks <u>before</u> (on March 30, 1981 - barely two months after <u>taking office</u>) and was <u>recovering</u> in the Lincoln Bedroom of the White House.

In 2001, as Mr. Reagan battled the debilitating effects of Alzheimer's Disease, NASA celebrated the 20th anniversary of that historic <u>first flight</u>. Although the <u>oldest shuttle</u> in the fleet, *Columbia* (OV-102) had been <u>refitted</u>. She would soon be ready for another mission - STS 107 - which was delayed until January 16, 2003.

This time, however the shuttle would fly without a robotic arm onboard. This time, there would be no space walks. This time, the mission was completely dedicated to scientific experiments.

And this time, an American Space Transportation System would fail to successfully re-enter Earth's atmosphere.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Columbia-Space-Shuttle-Explosion

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Columbia-Space-Shuttle-Explosion

#### Media Stream



President Reagan is Shot

U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/President-Reagan-is-Shot



Reagan Recovering at George Washington Hospital

U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Reagan-Recovering-at-George-Washington-Hospital



#### Lift-off of STS-1 - The First Shuttle Flight

Image, NASA.

Information and quote, NASA's Mission-Pages web site.

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#### Ronald Reagan - First Inaugural Address

President Reagan's Inaugural Address, on 20 January 1981, online courtesy C-SPAN.



### Attempted Assassination of President Reagan - Remembering Jim Brady

Historical news footage, online courtesy ABC.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Attempted-Assassination-of-President-Reagan-Remembering-Jim-Brady



#### Ronald Reagan - Describes Attempted Assassination

Video clip, courtesy Larry King Live, CNN, and YouTube.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ronald-Reagan-Describes-Attempted-Assassination



<u>First Shuttle Launch - Columbia, STS-1</u> Video of STS-1, launch of the shuttle *Columbia*, online courtesy NASA.



<u>First Shuttle Landing - STS-1</u> NASA video of STS-1 landing, online courtesy NASA.

View this asset at:  $\underline{\text{http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/First-Shuttle-Landing-STS-1}}$