First Woman Graphic Novels and Interactive Experiences

These graphic novels and accompanying interactive experiences tell the tale of a fictional character, Callie Rodriguez, the first woman to ever explore the Moon.

Join Callie’s journey to the Moon by scanning the QR codes and downloading the First Woman app. For additional information and more content, visit: www.nasa.gov/calliefirst

INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCES: GUIDE

QR Codes
- Open the camera on your device
- Point the camera at the QR Code
- Click on the website pop-up and explore!

Download and XR Icon
- Go to Google Play or the App Store to download the First Woman app
- Launch the app on your device
- Scan pages in the graphic novel with the XR icon or explore them directly in the app!

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Hello?! Mission Control! It’s Callie!

Are you receiving?!

Lunar Outpost? Dan?!

Hello? Is anyone there?

Well, Callie, another milestone: the first astronaut to get stuck dangling in a lava tunnel...

“Were you scared?”
I was. But one of the reasons we drill, drill, drill emergency situations is so if we’re ever in one, we automatically fall back on what we know.

Copy that, Dan!

Intercom’s been restored! That must mean the solar flare has moved past us.

Callie, can you hear me?

So maybe other equipment is coming back online too. If we could just get the winch going again...

I still can’t connect to the rover. We’ll have to get it started manually.
Luckily, that’s when I came up with what can only be described as a brilliant plan.

Really? Pretty sure you were asleep.

I was just napping. I solve many problems while napping.

“Uh huh. Well, it’s true, you were the key to getting us out of there. I just needed a way to wake you up...”

There’s RT! If I can get to him, then he can make it back up to the surface, plug in, and we’re back in business!

Sounds like a plan, except... how do we get to him??
Callie, you’re making me nervous right now.

If I could just swing a little closer...
OOOF!

Are you okay?

I'm fine. The cable's too short - it won't reach.
I know what you're thinking...

Well, I don't have a better idea. Do you?

Alright.

Our oxygen levels are down by more than 50%. We'll run out before anybody else can make it out here.

But let me at least get over there, so I'm under you. Just in case.

Okay. Ready.
Made it! Now for a quick reboot and a lot of luck...

RT, do you know who I am?
You don't?
Callie, do you think you might have amnesia?

Okay, wiseguy. We don't have much time. I need you to restart the rover so I can power the winch remotely.

I'm on it!
Rover started! And I’m happy to report that radiation levels are now normal on the surface.

Then see if you can reestablish comms with Mission Control.

Great, pick up Dan first. Then see if you can reestablish comms with Mission Control.

Okay Callie, connection restored.
Copy that, Commander! What is your status?

Dan is already topside and I’m heading up... right now.

Mission Control, we are all on the surface now.

Ready to head back to base.

“And that’s how I single-handedly rescued Dan and Callie from the dark, dangerous lava tunnel. Of course, the nation was deeply grateful.”
Some may say, the “G.O.A.T.”...

Which is why I was named NASA’s official Guardian Of Astronaut Teams!

Oh really?

Moving on...next question is from Michael!

Hi, Michael! Yes, we’re now doing some important research about Earth’s energy budget using datasets gathered through open science.

Hi. Are you conducting any research on how Earth is being affected by climate change?

I’ll give this one to our newest crew member, Meshaya Billy.

Hi, Michael! Yes, we’re now doing some important research about Earth’s energy budget using datasets gathered through open science.

This simulation shows how much energy from the Sun is absorbed by Earth and how much is reflected back into space.
We want this energy to be balanced—that creates moderate temperatures and a stable climate.

My teacher says that you’re from the Choctaw community. What stories did you hear about the Moon growing up?

I heard many stories from my elders about the Moon! While you may have grown up hearing about “the man on the Moon,” I learned about the woman on the Moon, stirring a pot of traditional stew.

Did you always want to be an astronaut?
“Um, no. I wanted to be a helicopter pilot. When I was little, we were visiting family in Louisiana during a really bad storm.”

“I remember watching the Coast Guard rescue people from the Gulf.”

“Those pilots were fearless. I knew right then, that’s what I wanted to do.”
"I joined the Coast Guard, and did helicopter search and rescue for a few years."

"Kids, Meshaya's being a bit too modest.

Meshaya was awarded a medal for risking her own life to rescue the crew of a sinking freighter during a hurricane!"

After that I found out that NASA's aeronautics directorate hires test pilots to fly new aviation tech. I was able to fly some amazing planes that have changed how we travel and here I am!

Yes, a member of my Artemis team - the greatest of all time! Okay next question.
Is NASA doing any projects with astronauts from other countries?

Oh, let’s have Martin take this one! He’s an astrophysicist visiting from the Canadian Space Agency.

Yes! We are working with NASA to finish construction on the next great observatory in space to enable more shared data and open science collaboration from scientists around the world.

We’re using multi-axle rovers, called M.A.R., to install the telescope dish made of thin wire mesh. It’s far too cold for us in the crater, but these little rovers will help us bring the Moon Radio Telescope online in the next few days.

Looks like we have time for one more question from Nicholas!
Commander Callie, what did it feel like to be the first woman on the Moon?

Great question!

"First of all, I wanted to make sure I didn’t trip."

One small step for humanity... One massive face plant for Callie Rodrigu-
"I also thought of all the training I went through... And the help I got from all the engineers and scientists at NASA to be ready for that moment.

I realized those steps were not just a big deal for me, but for the world."

"But mostly what I felt was gratitude for my parents and my mentors. I was lucky enough to have people who really cared in my life."

This is one of the most historic moments not just for women... ...but for the entire planet!!!
So if you have a dream, stick with it. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Questions will lead you to finding that person who can support you.

If not a parent, maybe it's a coach, teacher, or a neighbor. They're out there.

Okay, we're about out of time. Th—

Why, of course I can show you kids a video of a water bubble blowing contest on the Outpost!

What? RT, no one gave you that prompt!

Anyway, looks like we have a mission briefing coming up. Thanks everyone! Bye!
The problem seems to be with one of the east rim rovers.

It’s been stalled for over six hours now. Nothing we’ve done remotely has been successful to get it moving again.

Do we have any idea why it stopped?

Not yet, we need eyes on the site ASAP.

I’ll go! I’ll go!

That just might work! Mission Control, I think we can modify RT’s functions and fly him into the crater.

Have you ever tested RT in the extreme cold? It may affect his autonomous function.

No, but good thing we have a pilot here...
Okay, let's get moving.

Lunar Outpost, we're heading out.

Wait, what?

So Martin, since we have an hour and a half, I thought we could sing some songs.

Thank you, RT, but no.

How about a game of I Spy with My Little Eye?

That's what we're thinking. Callie, we want you, Meshaya and Martin to head out to the telescope, with RT. Meshaya, you can remotely operate RT like a drone down into the crater to get a look at the construction.

Lunar Outpost, we're heading out.

Roger that, Commander Rodriguez. Drive safe!
RT, I need to concentrate on the mission.

Of course. We can just ride in silence then. I don't mind that at all. It's fine.

Why, of course I can narrate our progress!

What a great prompt!

It's a harsh and unforgiving environment, but they are undaunted by the challenges that lay ahead.

Moonquakes... sudden drops in temperature... AND marauding Moon creatures!

But this gutsy crew is ready for anything...

Especially their cool and stylish French Canadian copilot...

RT has a new friend.
Hey, you okay?

Yeah, all good.

You look tense.

Just feeling the weight of it all.

Flying a drone into a crater at minus 400 degrees...fixing a telescope that could transform our understanding of the universe...I don’t want to let anyone down.

Haven’t seen you worried like this before.
The whole world wasn’t watching before. Now they are. Especially my community back home, they’re so proud of me. I feel like any mistake I make reflects on them, you know?

Oh, I might know something about carrying a lot of people’s expectations on my shoulders, yeah.

Right. Guess you would.

Look, there are millions of people who think you’re a hero. But there are always going to be people who don’t. You can’t let that get in your head, any of it. You have to know you’re good at what you do.

Because there may come a time, doing this, when it’s just you. When you have to make a decision, and there’s no one to guide you, you’re going to have to trust your choices.
What's that?

Mom, qué está pasando?

What happened?

I, uh, had a little fall. They’re running tests right now, but I’ll be in the hospital for a few days.

You were trained for this, Meshaya. Remember that. Sigue adelante.

Oh, just something my mom says when I’m worrying too much.

A FEW WEEKS EARLIER...

Mom, qué está pasando? What happened?
Oh, mom. I wish I were there with you!

I know, mija. But I’ll be fine. And you’re exactly where you’re supposed to be.

Doesn’t feel like that right now.

Sigue adelante.

It’s going to be fine, mija.

I love you.

I love you too.

BACK IN THE ROVER...

And she was right. We have to keep going. Made me think about some things though.

I really don’t like being this far away from her right now.
Commander Rodriguez. You're approaching the crater.

I'm sorry. Must be tough.

Life happens, right? Even when we're up here.

Okay team, it's showtime.

Roger that Lunar Outpost.
Are you sure you can’t come with us, Callie?

I’d love to, RT. But I need to get the rover situated so the solar array can boost our power reserves.

Mon ami, it’s okay to be scared.

Me? Scared?

I mean, if this fix doesn’t work, it’s only humanity’s ability to better understand the universe that’s at stake. No biggie.

Don’t worry, RT. You’re in good hands. I’ll be guiding you every step of the way.

Let’s suit up!
Solar array is now engaged and drawing power. Good luck troubleshooting the telescope deployment.

Okay, RT. I’ll pilot you down. You take care of the camera. Ready?

What if I get cold down there?

I promise, you won’t feel a thing. Just don’t freeze up. Use that extra power to keep your hands warm, we may need them later...

Lights!

Camera!

Action!
Hello buddy! You are such a good little telescope builder! Yes you are!

Okay RT, slowing your descent so we can have a better look at the stalled rover.

Halting descent – RT, rotate the camera 15 degrees and zoom in on the wire mesh.

Hold up...What’s that?

Looks like we located the problem! See that kink in the mesh?
That's why the M.A.R. stopped cold, so it wouldn't tear a big hole in the mesh.

RT, we'll have to straighten out the mesh manually. If all goes well, I'll bet the M.A.R. will restart and we can wrap up.

I feel like I can do this with my eyes closed.

Nice and steady...

Don't close your eyes! I need the camera!

It's straightened out!

Now let's see if we can get this little dude back to work.

Wakey Wakey!

He doesn't seem to be restarting.
If we can send the winch down to RT, we can bring the M.A.R. to the rim and I can check it for any damage.

I can send the winch down, but we'll need to radio Callie to —

Consider the plan confirmed! RT, we need you back up top!

On my way!

Ready RT? Winch attached! Sending you back down!

You gave me a leash?!!
Bonjour monsieur...

Let’s get you squared away.

Any guesses on what caused it to fail?

I’ll go with my gut on this. Aliens.

RT, if that’s what your gut is telling you, maybe you need a reboot...

Yes indeed, looks like regolith did get inside and has jammed the gears.
All clean now. Let’s get you back to your partner…

Ah, non! Now RT has me talking to the robots.

Commander Rodriguez, this is Lunar Outpost. We’ve got an urgent mission update. We’ve detected several small meteorites entering the exosphere.

Copy that Lunar Outpost. Any read on trajectory?

They’re tracking towards your general position! Impact imminent!

Roger. Martin, Meshaya I’m on my way.

RT, fill us in on the potential damage of a small meteorite strike, please.
Due to the lack of atmosphere on the Moon, a meteorite the size of a softball can impact the lunar surface traveling at speeds ranging from 22,000 to 156,000 miles per hour —

Convert to meters, please.

That’s ten to seventy kilometers per second, which is roughly thirty times faster than in Earth’s atmosphere.

Shelter in place until I get there.
Brace for impact!
Martin! Meshaya! What's your status?!

This is Meshaya. I'm okay. RT too.

But I don't have a visual on Martin.

I'm getting data from his suit's Bio-Monitor. He's alive!

Martin?! I repeat, can you hear me? Over.

Blood pressure, pulse rate and body temp all elevated. Martin, I repeat, do you copy?!

Martin?
Callie, I'm here.

Are you okay? Over.

There's limited visibility and the impact threw me a good distance.

Any damage?!?

Unsure. Standby for status.

Heart rate accelerated - Martin what's going on?!

Unstable surface - I keep sliding!
Martin,
don’t move!

Callie - I have a visual. Martin is on a small ledge inside the crater, any movement could send him into the mesh!

My mobility is compromised.

It’s possible my leg is broken.

Callie - we may be able to use the rover’s robotic arm to lift him out!

Positioning the rover now, just need to make sure we don’t cause a landslide!

Martin, we’ll need you to attach yourself to the harness.

Confirmed.

Now you know how I felt! It’s your turn to get the leash!

RT. Not helpful right now.
Habitat Control, the rover’s electrical system seems to have had a power surge, or a short. We’re losing power faster than we should.

Habitat Control, do you copy?

Callie, what’s going on?

My instrument readings are showing we are losing too much power...
What about replenishing with solar?

Possibly...but we must have sustained some damage. I’m also seeing receiver antennas 1 and 5 are offline. RT, send a damage assessment.

Hmmm...that’s not so good...

Solar panels are damaged beyond repair. Antennas 1 and 5 are gone.

What are you seeing up there?

Do we have enough power to get back to the Hab?

Doubtful. If this gauge is accurate, the power is drawing down much faster than it should be. With the antennas we have left, Habitat Control should be able to hear us, but we can’t hear them...

I’ve shut down all non-essential power to preserve the batteries. For now, we wait...
Meanwhile...

Artemis 23 team! I'm not sure you can hear me, but I'm on my way!

Lunar Outpost - headed out now.

Copy that, Dan. We'll guide you to their location.

Meshaya, how's our patient?

It's hard to assess until we get him back to the Hab. Martin, how do you feel?

Not great. What are we waiting for?

Standard protocol is to send out help. We can expect Dan to arrive with replacement parts.
Blood pressure and heart rate are dropping...I've seen this before, I think Martin's going into shock.

Can you treat him here?

We can start fluids and monitor vitals, but we need to get him back to the Hab's medical bay ASAP.

If we turn off navigation, it should save us enough power to get Martin medical attention sooner.

Too risky. With no navigation system and with our tracks covered by debris, we'd be flying blind. If we go off course...

I've taken that into account.

Standard protocol says we stay put. Help is on its way.
Martin’s vitals are dropping fast. With the limited equipment we have here, I can’t tell what’s going on.

We HAVE to get him back and we don’t have time to wait.

If the battery’s drain becomes critical, we could freeze before help arrives –

We can make it.

I’ve done the calculations, there’s enough power left to rendezvous with Dan.

But if we wait...

Commander, trust me. We have to go. Now.

Okay. Let’s do this.

If we can pick up our tracks beyond the debris field, all we need to do is–

Orienteer using landmarks until we get there.
RT, we’ll need you up top for lighting. Not using the rover’s lights will save us more power.

Aye aye, Captain.
I can be very illuminating!

Major rock formation 15 meters ahead!

That's the outcropping on the map!
We're headed in the right direction!

I never thought I'd say I'm happy to see him, but -

Look!!! There's Dan!!!
I’ll swap out the power unit and we’ll have Martin back to base ahead of schedule.

Unit replaced. Fire it up!

Confirmed, we’re good to go! Let’s get back home.

Habitat Ho!!! But watch out for that rock straight ahead! Re-routing!!!

Yeah, I-I know... Just wanted to make sure you knew I was still up here.

RT, we have our navigation system back you know...
Meshaya!

We need to talk about what happened out there.

I want to say thank you! For persisting. You saved your crewmate today.

It was. But it was you who got me to reconsider. I would have waited and who knows what might have happened to Martin if we had?

Well, it was a group effort.

You calculated our options and trusted your instincts, Meshaya. And you got me to see a new path...That's leadership. Which is exactly what NASA's going to need on the Mars team.

The Mars team? Oh, I don't know about that -

We'll see. Maybe by the time those decisions get made, I'll have some say in the matter...
Mars Lander, this is Mission Control. We've got changing weather conditions on the surface. Winds currently at 50 kilometers per hour, gusts up to 75.

Increasing dust storms and decreased visibility in the landing area. Navigation system initiating slight course correction to avoid potential hazards.

Mars Lander, you are go to enter descent. I repeat, you are go to enter descent. We'll be losing communications momentarily.

From one first woman to the next, proud of you, Shaya. The entire world is with you.
Mission Control, this is Mars Lander. Confirming course correction. I know you're all probably very nervous right now.

But all our systems look good.

We have one more thing we want to say before we go radio silent.

What's the one thing, crew?

We ARE Going!

Initiating descent now.
You may have to assume manual control as you approach the surface. The decision will be yours.

Commander! We're getting updated readings from the surface. The weather's changing rapidly. There's a new dust storm at the landing site.

Roger that, Mission Control. We're getting those readings, too. Ready to override if needed. We're -

We've lost audio.

Okay, people. Now, we wait.

Sigue adelante, Shaya. You've got this.
TRAILBLAZING MISSIONS

With the Artemis program, NASA will land the first woman and person of color on the Moon, using innovative technologies to explore more of the lunar surface than ever before. With Artemis, we add to NASA’s legacy of inspiring the world through discovery. We will use what we learn on and around the Moon to take the next giant leap to Mars. For more historic missions, scan the QR code.

1969
Apollo 11
First person to walk on the Moon

1976
Viking 1
First soft landing on Mars

2022
Artemis
First launch of SLS and Orion capsule