John W. Young Encyclopedia Article

John W. Young

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John W. Young

1930-

American astronaut who was the first astronaut to complete six flights. Young piloted the 1965 *Gemini 3* flight and commanded *Gemini 10* the next year. In 1969 Young was the command module pilot for *Apollo 10.* He landed on the moon in 1972 as commander of *Apollo 16.* Young flew on the space shuttle's 1981 inaugural flight and commanded the 1983 shuttle mission that first carried *Spacelab* experiments. Because he questioned safety procedures concerning the *Challenger* disaster, Young was replaced as chief of the astronaut office.