

### 1940s: Origins of the Space Race

**1945** US & USSR capture German V-2 rocket technology & scientists

**July 16:** US conducts the first successful test of an atomic bomb

**1947** **October 14:** US Air Force Test Pilot breaks the sound barrier

### 1950s: The Race Begins

**1955** **July 29:** US announces intention to launch satellites

**August 2:** USSR announces intention to launch satellites

**1957** **October 4:** USSR launches **Sputnik 1** an artificial satellite

**November 3:** USSR launches **Sputnik 2** with **Laika**

**1958** **January 31:** US launches satellite, **Explorer 1**

**March 17** US launches **Vanguard 1** a solar-powered satellite

**October 1:** **NASA** is established

**1959** **January 2:** USSR's **Luna 1** reaches the vicinity of the Moon

**September 12:** USSR's **Luna 2** impacts the Moon

**October 4:** **Luna 3** sends images of Moon's far side

### 1960s: Major Milestones

**1961** **April 12:** Soviet Cosmonaut **Yuri Gagarin** becomes the first human in space on **Vostok 1**

### 1960s: Major Milestones (cont)

**May 5:** US astronaut **Alan Shepard** completes the first U.S. manned spaceflight on **Mercury-Redstone 3 (Freedom 7)**

**May 25:** US President JFK sets the goal of landing a man on the Moon

**August 6:** Soviet Cosmonaut **Gherman Titov** orbits the Earth on **Vostok 2**

**1962** **February 20:** **John Glenn** becomes the first American to orbit Earth on **Mercury-Atlas 6**

**August 11-15:** Soviet cosmonaut **Andrian Nikolayev** orbits the Earth aboard **Vostok 3**, while **Pavel Popovich** orbits aboard **Vostok 4**, marking the first simultaneous crewed spaceflights

**October 3:** US astronaut **Walter Schirra** orbits the Earth 6 times aboard **Mercury-Atlas 8**

**1963** **June 16:** Soviet cosmonaut **Valentina Tereshkova** becomes the first woman in space aboard **Vostok 6**

**July 19:** US launches **Syncom 2** a geostationary communications satellite

**1964** **October 12:** USSR launches **Voskhod 1** a multi person spacecraft

**1965** **March 18:** Soviet cosmonaut **Alexei Leonov** conducts a spacewalk from **Voskhod 2**

**March 23:** US astronauts **Gus Grissom** & **John Young** conduct a crewed mission **Gemini 3**

### 1960s: Major Milestones (cont)

**June 3-7:** US astronaut **Ed White** performs first American spacewalk from **Gemini 4**

**August 21-29:** **Gemini 5** sets a new space endurance record of 8 days

**1966** **March 16:** **Gemini 8**, piloted by **Neil Armstrong**, completes a successful docking of two spacecraft in orbit

**June 2:** The U.S. **Surveyor 1** spacecraft makes the first successful soft landing on the Moon.

**September 12:** USSR's **Luna 9** makes a soft landing on the moon & transmits images back to Earth

**November 11:** NASA successfully launches **Gemini 12** with astronauts **James Lovell** & **Buzz Aldrin**

**1967** **January 27:** Tragedy strikes with the **Apollo 1** fire, killing three astronauts

**April 24:** Soviet Cosmonaut **Vladimir Komarov** dies when **Soyuz 1** crashes during re-entry

**October 18:** USSR successfully tests the **Proton Rocket**

**1968** **September 15:** USSR launches **Zond 5**, which carries the first living organisms to orbit the moon & return safely to Earth

**December 21-27:** **Apollo 8** a manned mission to orbit the Moon

**1969** **July 20:** **Apollo 11** lands on the Moon. **Neil Armstrong** and **Buzz Aldrin** walks on the surface



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### 1970s: The Space Race Winds Down

**1970** **April 11-17: Apollo 13** mission suffers in flight emergency when oxygen tank explodes

**September 12:** USSR's **Luna 16** returns lunar soil samples to Earth

**1971** **April 19:** USSR launches **Salyut 1** a space station

**June 6-30: Soyuz 11** crew dies during re entry after boarding **Salyut 1**

**1972** **December 7-19: Apollo 17** last Apollo mission, and final Moon landing

**1975** **July 15-24:** The **Apollo-Soyuz Test Project** a international human spaceflight & end of Space Race

### Post-Space Race: The Legacy

**1986** USSR launches **Mir**, a modular space station that would remain in orbit until 2001

**1998** US, Russia, & other international partners begin the construction of the **International Space Station (ISS)**, symbolising the cooperative spirit that emerged after the Space Race



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