

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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Not published yet.

Last updated 11th August, 2024.

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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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