

SPACE RACE ERA: 1957 - 1975

A Comparative Historical Timeline

Oct 1957

Sputnik 1 USSR launches the first artificial satellite into Earth orbit.

Jan 1958

Explorer 1 USA successfully orbits its first satellite; discovers Van Allen radiation belts.

Apr 1961

Vostok 1 Yuri Gagarin becomes the first human in space and to orbit Earth.

May 1961

Freedom 7 Alan Shepard becomes the first American in space (sub-orbital flight).

Jun 1963

Vostok 6 Valentina Tereshkova becomes the first woman in space.

Mar 1965

Voskhod 2 Alexei Leonov performs the first extravehicular activity (spacewalk).

Dec 1968

Apollo 8 First crewed spacecraft to reach the Moon, orbit it, and return safely.

Jul 1969

Apollo 11 Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin become the first humans to walk on the Moon.

Apr 1971

Salyut 1 USSR launches the world's first orbital space station.

Jul 1975

Apollo-Soyuz Test Project First joint US-Soviet mission; symbolic end to the Space Race.

UNITED STATES (NASA)

SOVIET UNION (RKA)