

# SPACE RACE TIMELINE

The Cold War Competition for Galactic Supremacy

**Oct 4, 1957**  
**Sputnik 1**

USSR launches the first artificial satellite into Earth's orbit, sparking the Space Age.

**Jan 31, 1958**  
**Explorer 1**

The United States successfully launches its first satellite, discovering the Van Allen radiation belts.

**Apr 12, 1961**  
**Vostok 1**

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

**May 25, 1961**  
**Kennedy's Challenge**

President JFK announces the goal of landing a man on the Moon before the decade is out.

**Jun 16, 1963**  
**Vostok 6**

Valentina Tereshkova becomes the first woman to travel into space.

**Jul 20, 1969**  
**Apollo 11**

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

**Jul 17, 1975**  
**Apollo-Soyuz**

The first joint US-Soviet mission, marking the symbolic end of the Space Race.