

THE SPACE RACE HISTORY

A Definitive Timeline: 1955 - 1975

Oct 4, 1957

Sputnik 1 Launch

The Soviet Union launches the first artificial satellite into Earth's orbit, effectively starting the race.

USSR VICTORY

Jan 31, 1958

Explorer 1

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

USA MILESTONE

Apr 12, 1961

Vostok 1: First Man in Space

Yuri Gagarin becomes the first human to orbit the Earth, spending 108 minutes in space.

USSR VICTORY

May 25, 1961

Kennedy's Lunar Challenge

President JFK delivers a speech to Congress proposing the goal of landing a man on the moon by the decade's end.

USA POLICY

Jun 16, 1963

First Woman in Space

Valentina Tereshkova orbits the Earth 48 times aboard Vostok 6.

USSR VICTORY

Jul 20, 1969

Apollo 11 Moon Landing

Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin become the first humans to walk on the lunar surface.

USA VICTORY

Apr 19, 1971

Salyut 1

The Soviet Union launches the first orbital space station in history.

USSR MILESTONE

Jul 17, 1975

Apollo-Soyuz Test Project

The first joint U.S.-Soviet mission. The docking of the two crafts symbolizes the end of the Space Race.

JOINT MISSION