

SPACE RACE HISTORY

Chronological Milestones of Extra-Atmospheric Exploration

October 4, 1957 **Sputnik 1 Launch**

The Soviet Union successfully launches the first artificial satellite into Earth's orbit, marking the official beginning of the Space Race.

April 12, 1961 **First Human in Space**

Yuri Gagarin orbits the Earth aboard Vostok 1, becoming the first human to enter outer space and complete a full orbit.

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

President John F. Kennedy delivers a speech to Congress proposing that the U.S. "should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon."

June 16, 1963 **First Woman in Space**

Valentina Tereshkova launches on Vostok 6, spending nearly three days in space and orbiting the Earth 48 times.

July 20, 1969 **Apollo 11 Moon Landing**

Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin become the first humans to land on the lunar surface, effectively ending the primary competition of the Space Race.

July 17, 1975 **Apollo-Soyuz Mission**

The first joint U.S.-Soviet space flight occurs, featuring a symbolic "handshake in space" that signaled a period of international cooperation.