

# MOON RACE HISTORY

1957 - 1972 Key Milestones

**October 4, 1957**

**Sputnik 1**

The USSR successfully launches the first artificial satellite into Earth's orbit.

**April 12, 1961**

**Vostok 1**

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

**May 25, 1961**

**Kennedy's Declaration**

President John F. Kennedy commits the U.S. to landing a man on the Moon before the decade ends.

**June 16, 1963**

**Vostok 6**

Valentina Tereshkova becomes the first woman to fly in space.

**December 21, 1968**

**Apollo 8**

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

**July 20, 1969**

**Apollo 11**

Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin perform the first crewed lunar landing.

**December 14, 1972**

**Apollo 17**

The final mission of the Apollo program; Gene Cernan is the last human to walk on the Moon.