

# THE SPACE RACE

1955 - 1975 Timeline of Human Achievement

**OCTOBER 4, 1957**

**Sputnik 1**

The USSR successfully launches the first artificial satellite into Earth's orbit, marking the official beginning of the Space Age.

**JANUARY 31, 1958**

**Explorer 1**

The United States enters the race by launching its first satellite, which discovers the Van Allen radiation belts.

**APRIL 12, 1961**

**Vostok 1**

Yuri Gagarin becomes the first human in space and the first to orbit the Earth, representing a major Soviet victory.

**MAY 25, 1961**

**JFK's Moon Challenge**

President John F. Kennedy announces the national goal of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to Earth before the decade is out.

**JUNE 16, 1963**

**Vostok 6**

Valentina Tereshkova becomes the first woman to fly in space, completing 48 orbits of the Earth.

**JULY 20, 1969**

**Apollo 11**

Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin become the first humans to land on the Moon. "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

**JULY 17, 1975**

**Apollo-Soyuz Project**

The first joint US-Soviet space flight. A symbolic "handshake in space" effectively marks the end of the Space Race.