

Module 10: Civil Unrest - The 1960s and the 1970s
Topic 4 Content: The Space Race Notes

Introduction



Although the missile crisis was over, the race against communism persisted. Kennedy gained a lot of support from Americans by announcing his plans for a “New Frontier” that prioritized the space program. The United States and the Soviet Union engaged in a race to put a man into space and on the moon. The space program, and the technology it produced, propelled the United States toward becoming world leader in technology. Click the arrow to begin your exploration of the Space Race.

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Instructions

THE SPACE RACE

- 1969 - First man on the moon
- 1962 - First man to orbit the Earth
- 1962 - Kennedy addresses the nation
- 1961 - First man in space
- 1958 - Explorer 1 and NASA
- 1957 - First artificial satellite

Instructions

Drag the rocket to explore the different events that occurred in the race between the United States and the Soviet Union as they worked to land a man on the moon.

The graphic features a background image of an astronaut in a space suit with the Earth visible in the distance. A small rocket icon with 'USA' written on it is positioned at the bottom left. A semi-transparent grey box contains the text 'Instructions' and a larger grey box contains the instruction text.

Drag the rocket to explore the different events that occurred in the race between the United States and the Soviet Union as they worked to land a man on the moon.

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Sputnik

First Artificial Satellite

The Soviet Union got ahead in the race when it launched the first artificial satellite, named Sputnik.

Sputnik stayed in operation for twenty-one days before burning up in Earth's atmosphere.

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USA

The infographic features a dark background with a white rocket on the left and a satellite on the right. A white box contains the title and text. A grey box contains the description of Sputnik. A list of milestones is on the left, and the word 'Instructions' is at the bottom left.

The Space Race began shortly after the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the first man-made satellite, into space. Sputnik was launched on October 4, 1957, and stayed in operation for twenty-one days, but remained in orbit for three months before burning up in Earth's atmosphere. When the Soviets launched Sputnik, the United States was concerned that it was falling behind in space technology.

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Explorer 1 and NASA

Explorer 1 and NASA

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Instructions

Wanting to stay in the race, the United States launched Explorer 1 in 1958.

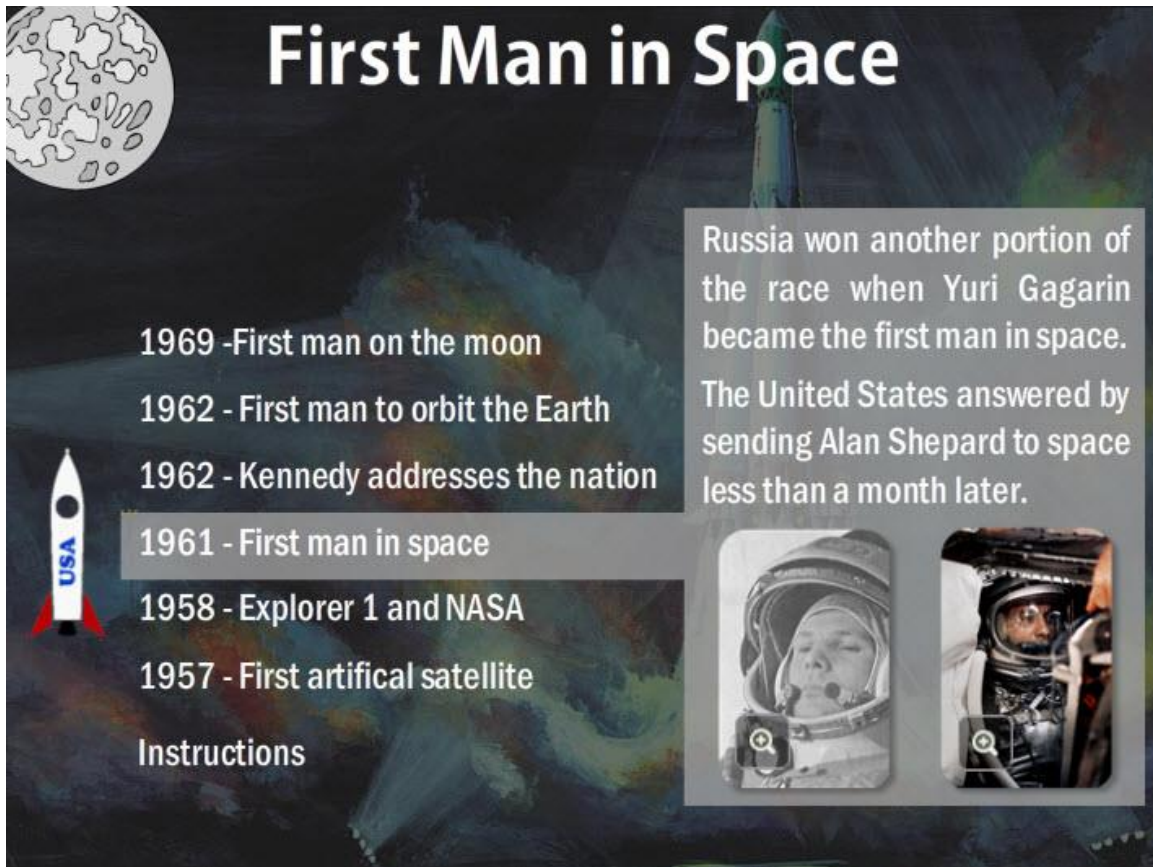
The United States also created the Nation Aeronautics and Space Administration.



The United States launched its first satellite, Explorer 1, on January 31, 1958. In October of 1958, the United States created the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or NASA, to coordinate the space efforts of the United States government, in order to try to catch up with the Soviet Union.

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First Man in Space



First Man in Space

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Instructions

Russia won another portion of the race when Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space. The United States answered by sending Alan Shepard to space less than a month later.



Pressure increased when, in April of 1961, Yuri Gagarin, a Soviet cosmonaut, became the first man to go into outer space and orbit the Earth. Less than a month later on May 5, 1961, Alan B. Shepard, Jr. became the first American in space as part of Project Mercury.

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Kennedy's Address

Kennedy Addresses the Nation

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Kennedy addressed the nation from Rice University on September 12, 1962.

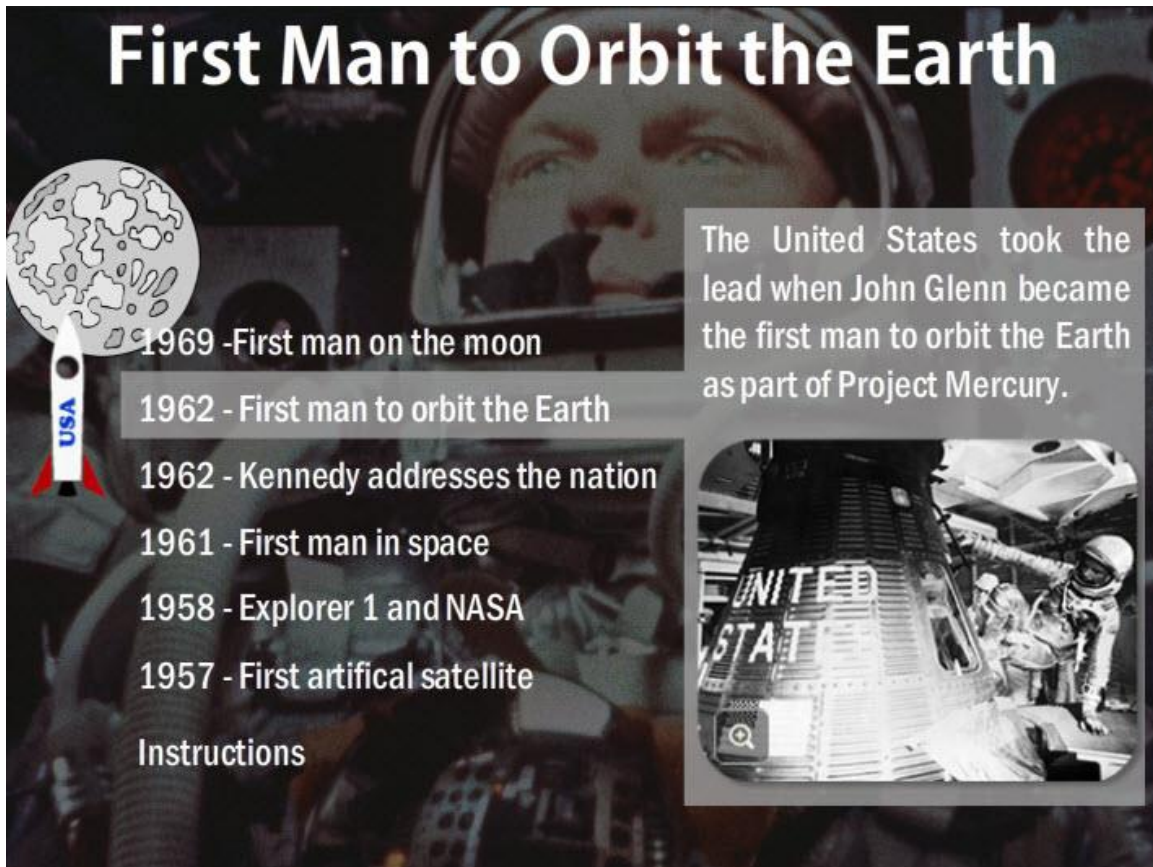
00:00 / 00:51

On September 12, 1962, President John F. Kennedy, speaking to a joint session of Congress, said, "We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard..." Considering that the United States had just figured out how to put one astronaut into space, this was an aggressive goal.

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First Man to Orbit

First Man to Orbit the Earth



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Instructions

The United States took the lead when John Glenn became the first man to orbit the Earth as part of Project Mercury.



John Glenn became the first American astronaut to orbit the Earth as the second phase of Project Mercury on February 20, 1962. NASA continued to launch rockets carrying astronauts into space during the 1960s, growing their rockets from carrying one person in the Mercury program, to two people in the Gemini program, to three people in the Apollo program.

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First Man on the Moon

First Man on the Moon

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Instructions

The United States won the space race when astronauts Neil Armstrong, Edwin Aldrin, and Michael Collins landed on the Moon on July 20, 1969

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On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong became the first person to walk on the moon. As he stepped onto the moon's surface, he said, "That's one small step for man; one giant leap for mankind." Five more moon landings would be conducted by NASA, with the last one occurring in December of 1972.