



KS1

The Moon Landings

HISTORY



Quick summary



On 16 July 1969, the rocket Saturn V was launched from Kennedy Space Center in the United States. On board the rocket was the spacecraft Apollo 11 and three brave astronauts hoping to travel safely to the Moon and back. Millions of people across the world watched on television as Apollo 11 set off on its journey. Days later, on 20 July 1969, the lunar module Eagle landed on the Moon. Soon afterwards, Neil Armstrong stepped out of the Eagle, saying the famous words 'That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.' This achievement was made possible because of significant changes in scientific understanding and technology, and has left a lasting legacy across the world.



Travel and exploration

Space exploration has allowed humans to learn a great deal about the planets and stars in space. The mission to land on the Moon is one of thousands of spacecraft missions that have been launched into space. The Apollo 11 mission was only made possible because of new knowledge and technology. Today, scientists have new goals, such as sending humans to Mars.



Conflict

In April 1961, the Soviet Union became the first country to send a man into space. His name was Yuri Gagarin. Soon afterwards, on 25 May 1961, the US president John F Kennedy announced that the United States would land a spacecraft on the Moon before 1970. This marked the start of the space race between the Soviet Union and the United States. The two countries were rivals and both wanted to prove they had the best scientists and technology.

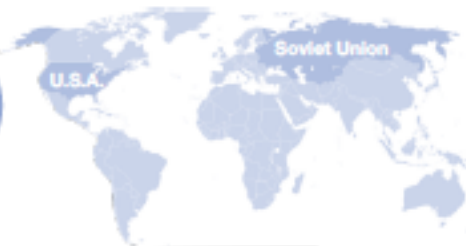


Main events

- 1957: Soviet Union launched a rocket, Sputnik, into space
- 1961: Yuri Gagarin became the first man to orbit Earth
- 1962: American John Glenn completed three orbits of Earth
- 1969: Neil Armstrong walked on the Moon



Location



Vocabulary

- lunar:** relating to the Moon
- achievement:** something done successfully after lots of effort
- exploration:** travelling to a place to discover what is there
- rivals:** those in competition with one another
- orbit:** the path an object takes