



**Year 5**  
**Space Race**



**Key vocabulary**

Soviet -	A citizen of the former Soviet Union, now Russia.
Satellite	An artificial body placed in orbit round the earth or moon or another planet in order to collect information or for communication.
Apollo 11	The first manned mission of the United States Apollo program, which had as its ultimate goal a manned lunar landing.
NASA -	National Aeronautics and Space Administration. United States government agency responsible for the civilian space program as well as aeronautics and aerospace research
Sputnik	First artificial Earth satellite, it was launched by Moscow in 1957 and sparked U.S. fears of Soviet dominance in technology and outer space

Timeline of Key Events:

- 4 October 1957** - The world's first artificial satellite.
- 28 May 1959** - First creatures to return alive from space.
- 12 April 1961** - The first man in space.
- 16 June 1963** - The first woman in space.
- 18 March 1965** - First-ever spacewalk.
- 20 July 1969** - First man on the Moon.



**Key facts**

- The Cold War (1945 – 1991) was a long period of tension between the democracies of the Western World and the communist countries of Eastern Europe.
- The west was led by the United States and Eastern Europe was led by the Soviet Union (Russia).
- These two countries became known as superpowers. –
- Although the two superpowers never officially declared war on each other, they fought indirectly in proxy wars, the arms race, and the space race.
- The Space Race was considered important because it showed the world which country had the best science, technology, and economic system.
- After World War II both the United States and the Soviet Union realized how important rocket research would be to the military. They each recruited the top rocket scientists from Germany to help with their research. Soon both sides were making progress in rocket technology.
- The Space Race began in 1955 when both countries announced that they would soon be launching satellites into orbit.
- The Soviets took the US announcement as a challenge and even established a commission whose goal was to beat the US in putting a satellite into space