

Space Race Worksheets

Name: _____

Things in Space



In the middle of the Cold War, the USSR and the U.S. heavily ventured into space exploration. Can you identify and describe fascinating objects in space?

Name: _____

First Man in Space



On April 12, 1961, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first person in space. Using the Vostok spacecraft, Gagarin led the Soviets in its Space Race against the Americans. Can you write a short biographical narrative about him? You can use KidsKonnnect's premium space worksheets to help you out.

YURI GAGARIN


Legacy as Cosmonaut



COLD WAR: SPACE RACE WORKSHEETS


Name: _____


Apollo 11 Mission



On July 20, 1969, JFK's long space vision was realized through the successful moon landing of Apollo 11. Can you complete the profile of this space mission?

ASTRONAUTS





KEY EVENTS

COLD WAR: SPACE RACE WORKSHEETS

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Space Race **Facts**



In the late 1950s, during the Cold War, the United States and the Soviet Union engaged in a battle of space technology, known as the Space Race.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- ❖ Following the forced surrender of Japan brought about by the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the superpowers of the U.S. and Soviet Union became more concerned about the possibility of nuclear war.
- ❖ As a result, both nations engaged in an arms race where they competed for supremacy in the quantity and quality of weapons.
- ❖ The USSR and the U.S. feared the possibility of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD), a military doctrine which states that there is no opportunity for a peace agreement in a nuclear war. Hence, Nuclear Arms Control Treaties were continuously signed.



Space Race Facts

- ❖ With the arms race between the U.S. and USSR, both countries began to develop Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles or ICBMs, which were designed to reach long-range targets as far away as 3,500 miles.
- ❖ The arms race also led other nations, including Great Britain, France, and the People's Republic of China to build and stockpile their own nuclear weapons.
- ❖ In the mid-1950s until the early 1960s, tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States continued with the Space Race, construction of the Berlin Wall, and crises in Cuba, Korea, and Vietnam.

SOVIET SPUTNIK AND AMERICAN APOLLO

- ❖ On October 4, 1957, the USSR's Sputnik, Russian for "traveler," became the first artificial (manmade) satellite to reach the orbit of the Earth. Sputnik's launch was a shock for most Americans. It was unexpected, thus exposing the next frontier of exploration. Such activity threatened the United States with possible nuclear warhead and intelligence information gathering from space.
- ❖ In response, the United States Army launched Explorer I, an American satellite, in 1958. For further space exploration, President Dwight Eisenhower created NASA or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
- ❖ Moreover, President Eisenhower established two security-oriented space programs under the U.S. Air Force and the CIA.
- ❖ In 1959, the Soviets launched Luna 2 which targeted the moon. Two years later, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin set a record by being the first man to orbit the Earth.



Space Race Facts

- ❖ The Americans responded through Project Mercury which sent chimpanzees into space in a capsule-shaped craft.
- ❖ On May 5, 1961, Alan Shepard became the first American in space.
- ❖ On May 25, 1961, at the height of the Cold War, U.S. President John F. Kennedy declared a national goal of sending man to the moon at the Congress joint session. Kennedy's decision was because of Soviet success in sending cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin into space in April, 1961. He specifically wanted to catch up to and overtake the Soviet Union in what we know today as the Space Race.
- ❖ Several NASA projects like Mercury, Gemini and Apollo were developed to realize Kennedy's vision.
- ❖ By September 12, 1962, JFK delivered his famous quote, "We choose to go to the Moon" in front of a large crowd at Rice Stadium, Houston, Texas.



JFK at Rice University, 1962

- ❖ JFK specifically tasked Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson to oversee the project of the National Aeronautics and Space Council.
- ❖ After Kennedy's assassination on November 22, 1963, the idea of a joint moon landing was abandoned, but NASA's Apollo mission became a memorial for him.



Space Race **Facts**

- ❖ Apollo 11 was the fifth manned mission under the Apollo program.
- ❖ On July 16, 1969, three American astronauts, Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins, left the Kennedy Space Center in Houston, Florida, to fulfill NASA's Apollo 11 mission and JFK's vision. They traveled 240,000 miles for three days to reach the moon's lunar orbit.



*Apollo 11 astronauts
Neil Armstrong, Michael
Collins, and Buzz Aldrin*

*Aldrin erected the
Stars and Stripes flag
of the United States*



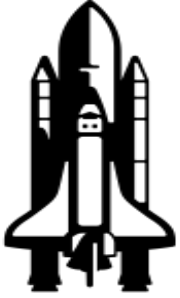
Space Race **Facts**

- ❖ The success of Apollo 11 established the United States' national and international dominance over rival countries. It also demonstrated the economic, political, and technological virtuosity of Americans. Lastly, such achievement opened up possibilities for further aerospace exploration.
- ❖ Between 1969 and 1972, the Soviets failed in four of its moon missions.
- ❖ The Space Race was highly coveted in television. Astronauts in the United States and cosmonauts in the USSR were seen as national heroes.
- ❖ The momentous 'handshake in space' between American astronauts and Soviet cosmonauts in the joint Apollo-Soyuz mission in 1975 marked the gradual refinement of the American-Soviet relations.



Name: _____

Things in Space



In the middle of the Cold War, the USSR and the U.S. heavily ventured into space exploration. Can you identify and describe fascinating objects in space?

1

2

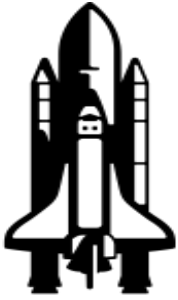
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4



Name: _____

First Man in Space



On April 12, 1961, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first person in space. Using the Vostok spacecraft, Gagarin led the Soviets in its Space Race against the Americans. Can you write a short biographical narrative about him? You can use KidsKonnnect's premium space worksheets to help you out.

YURI GAGARIN

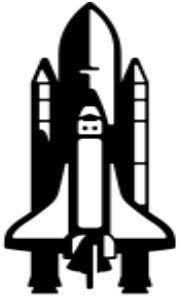
Legacy as Cosmonaut





Name: _____

Apollo 11 Mission

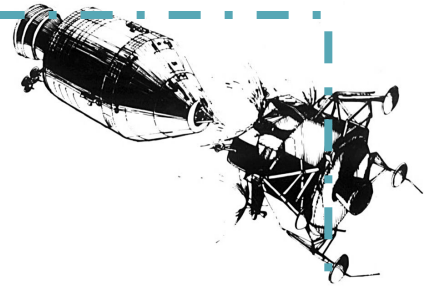


On July 20, 1969, JFK's long space vision was realized through the successful moon landing of Apollo 11. Can you complete the profile of this space mission?

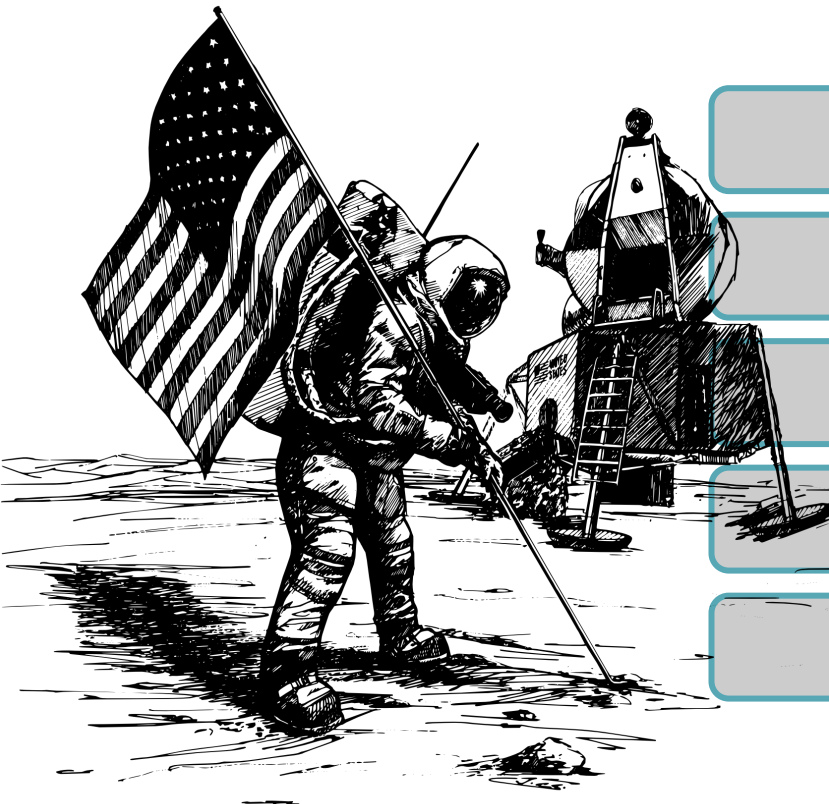
ASTRONAUTS



Three horizontal rectangular boxes for writing the names of the astronauts.



KEY EVENTS

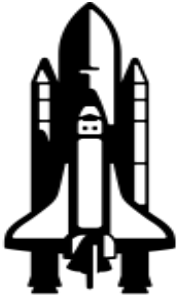


Four horizontal rectangular boxes for writing key events.



Name: _____

Space Race Log



Following the Soviet-American arms race, both ventured into space exploration to prove technological advancement. Complete the timeline with key events concluding the Space Race.

Blank text box for notes corresponding to the year 1957.

Blank text box for notes corresponding to the year 1958.

Blank text box for notes corresponding to the year 1960.

Blank text box for notes corresponding to the year 1961.

1957

1958

1960

1961

1965

1966

1969

Blank text box for notes corresponding to the year 1957.

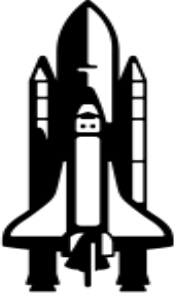
Blank text box for notes corresponding to the year 1961.

Blank text box for notes corresponding to the year 1966.



Name: _____

JFK and Space



On September 12, 1962, U.S. President John F. Kennedy addressed the United States about the next mission of American moon landing. Analyse JFK's speech using the guide questions. Use an additional sheet of paper as necessary.

Watch JFK's speech using this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZyRbnpGyzQ>



GUIDE QUESTIONS

1. What was JFK's speech all about?

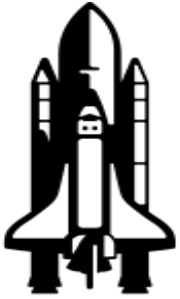
2. What were the developments of mankind he mentioned?

3. How significant was space exploration during this time in history?

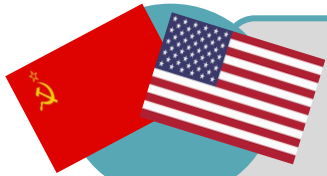


Name: _____

Cold War Facts

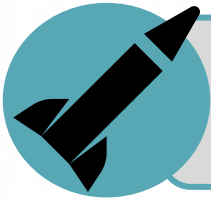


The Space Race was part of a larger conflict between the United States and the USSR known as the Cold War. Based on the symbols given, provide facts about the Cold War.





COLD WAR

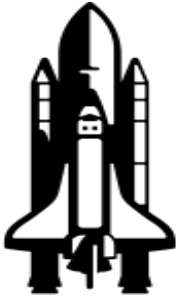






Name: _____

Moon Landing



The Space Race, which began with the Soviet Sputnik, ended with the American Apollo 11 landing. Now, write a news headline highlighting the moon landing and the end of the Space Race.

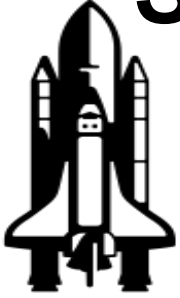
HEADLINE:





Name: _____

Space Race Vocabulary



Given your knowledge of the Cold War and the Space Race, define the words listed below.

ARTIFICIAL SATELLITE

APOLLO 11

MOON



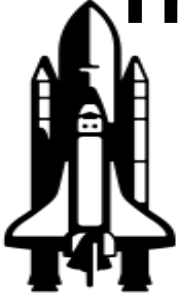
VOSTOK

SPUTNIK

COLUMBIA



Name: _____



Tragedies of Space Race

Soviet-American Space Race missions were not always successful. The monumental cost of such ventures involved not only great amounts of money, but lives as well. Can you look for online articles about some the tragedies that happened due to space exploration?

KEY POINTS

1

2

3

4

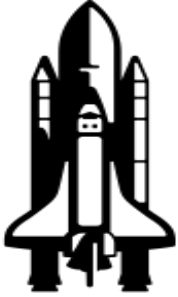
5

YOUR OWN POINT OF VIEW ABOUT THE SPACE RACE



Name: _____

End of the Race



Many believe that the United States won the Space Race. Following the successful Apollo 11 landing, several missions were sent. Based on your assessment of the Cold War and the Space Race, list the positive and negative consequences of this event.

Consequences of the Space Race

+

-

A

A

B

B

C

C

D

D

E

E

