



## The Space Race

In the 1950s, the 'space race' was a competition between the USSR and the USA. They both wanted to be the first country to go into space. The two countries wanted to send technology, and then people, into space.

In 1957, the USSR launched a satellite. The satellite was called Sputnik. A satellite is an object made on Earth which we send into Space. When it reaches space, the Satellite orbits (goes around) the Earth.

In 1957, the USSR also sent a dog into space. The dog was called Laika. This was part of a test. The scientists wanted to find out if going into space was safe. They tried it on an animal before a human. Laika lived in space for seven days.

In 1961, the USSR sent the first human into space. His name was Yuri Gagarin. He circled the Earth twice. He was up there for one and a half hours.

In 1961, the American president was John F. Kennedy. He knew the USA was losing the race. President Kennedy said that the USA would try to land a man safely on the moon. If the USA did it, they would win the space race.

The USA prepared for 8 years. The mission was very important. A spacecraft and rocket were built. Astronauts needed a lot of training as it could be very dangerous. The astronauts didn't know what was going to happen. They didn't know if they would live or die.

### RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. What year did the USSR launch a satellite into space?
2. In what year did Yuri Gagarin go into Space?
3. Who was the American president in 1961?
4. When did the space race end?

In 1969, the mission set off to the Moon. It was called Apollo 11. The mission was a success. The spacecraft reached the Moon. Neil Armstrong was the first man on the Moon. He planted an American flag. The USA had done it!

In 1975, the USSR and the USA stopped challenging each other. They decided they should work together. Working together in space would be better for both countries. The space race was over.

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**V**

What word means an object sent into Space, to orbit the Earth?

**R**

How did the astronauts travel to the Moon?

**I**

Why did Neil Armstrong plant an American flag?

**S**

Put these events in the order that they happened.

Apollo 11 goes to space

Sputnik goes to space

Laika goes to space

Yuri Gagarin goes to space

Answers:

1. 1957
2. 1961
3. John F. Kennedy
4. 1975

V: Satellite

R: In a spacecraft/rocket

I: to show the USA had won / to show who was there (or similar)

S: Sputnik goes to Space

Laika goes to Space

Yuri Gagarin goes to Space

Apollo 11 goes to Space