

## TIMELINE



- 1930** — Buzz Aldrin is born on January 20, Neil Armstrong on August 5, and Michael Collins on October 31.
- 1957** — The Soviet Union launches *Sputnik*, the world's first artificial satellite, into Earth orbit on October 4.
- 1957** — The Soviet Union launches *Sputnik 2*, carrying a dog, into Earth orbit on November 3.
- 1957** — The first U.S. attempt to launch a satellite on December 6 is a failure, as the rocket explodes.
- 1958** — The first successful American satellite launch is completed on January 31.
- 1958** — NASA is founded in July and begins operations on October 1.
- 1959** — On October 4, the Soviet Union's unmanned *Luna 3* circles the moon and photographs its far side.
- 1961** — On April 12, cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin becomes the first human in space and the first to orbit the planet.
- 1961** — Alan Shepard becomes the first American in space on May 5.
- 1961** — On May 25, president John F. Kennedy announces his goal of landing a man on the moon before the decade is out.
- 1962** — On February 20, John Glenn becomes the first American to orbit Earth.
- 1962** — Neil Armstrong is selected to join NASA's astronaut corps.
- 1963** — Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins become NASA astronauts.
- 1965** — On March 18, cosmonaut Aleksey Leonov becomes the first person to walk in space.
- 1965** — In March, NASA conducts the first manned launch of Project Gemini, a program that continues through November 1966.
- 1967** — On January 27, the crew of Apollo 1 is killed when their command module catches fire during a simulation.
- 1968** — On October 11, Apollo 7 launches on a mission to test the command module in Earth orbit.
- 1968** — Apollo 8, which launches on December 21, completes 10 orbits of the moon and returns safely to Earth.
- 1969** — Apollo 9 launches on March 3 to complete the testing of the lunar module in Earth orbit.
- 1969** — Apollo 10 launches on May 18, and the lunar module flies to within 50,000 feet (15,240 m) of the moon.
- 1969** — On July 20, Armstrong and Aldrin become the first men to set foot on the moon.
- 1972** — The final Apollo mission, Apollo 17, launches on December 7.

## ENDNOTES

**ASTRONOMERS:** people who study the universe and its stars, planets, and other bodies

**COLD WAR:** a period from 1946 to 1989, marked by hostile relations and a weapons buildup (but not direct warfare) between the U.S. and the Soviet Union

**COSMONAUT:** the title for an astronaut from Russia or the former Soviet Union

**EARTH ORBIT:** a path around Earth followed by an object in space

**GEOLOGY:** the study of rocks, soil, and minerals

**MEGALITHS:** large stones, often placed upright or used in the construction of ancient monuments

**MICROMETEORITES:** tiny pieces of rock that strike the moon at speeds of up to 64,000 miles (103,000 km) per hour

**MISSION CONTROL:** the command center for space missions, located at the Manned Spacecraft Center (now the Johnson Space Center) in Houston, where a team of astronauts and engineers known as flight controllers monitor spaceflights and issue instructions to astronauts aboard spacecraft

**PHASES:** shapes of the moon, from new moon to full moon, that recur every month

**QUARANTINE:** isolation from others for a time in order to prevent the spread of disease

**SATELLITE:** an object that orbits a celestial body; satellites can be natural, such as the moon, or artificial, such as space vehicles or communications equipment

**SEISMOMETERS:** instruments used to measure the intensity of earthquakes

**SEXTANT:** an instrument used to determine one's position by measuring the height of the sun or stars above the horizon

**SIMULATION:** an exercise in which actual features or conditions are reproduced for the purpose of training or study