



Space Exploration

WATCH AND LEARN

Watch the video and then take the quiz:



Who won the space race?

Jeff Steers describes the history and benefits of the space race. Lesson by Jeff Steers, animation by The Moving Company Animation Studio.



Watch here!

Full transcription + Vocabulary Study

Who Won the Space Race? - Transcription

Who Won the Space Race? 🚀 🌍

On October 4, 1957, the world watched in awe and fear as the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, the world's first man-made satellite, into space.

This little metal ball, smaller than two feet in diameter, launched a competition between the United States and the Soviet Union that would last for eighteen years and change the world as we know it. This competition became known as the Space Race.

Sputnik was actually not the first piece of human technology to enter space. That distinction goes to the V-2 rocket, used by Nazi Germany in missile attacks against Allied cities as a last-ditch effort in the final years of World War II.

The rocket was not very effective. However, at the end of the war, both the United States and the Soviet Union captured the technology and the scientists who had developed it and began using them for their own projects.



Transcription

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What event started the Space Race?

- a) The launch of Apollo 11
- b) The launch of Sputnik 1
- c) The first moon landing
- d) The creation of NASA

2. Which country launched Sputnik 1?

- a) United States
- b) China
- c) Soviet Union
- d) India

3. Who was the first human in space?

- a) Neil Armstrong
- b) John Glenn
- c) Yuri Gagarin
- d) Buzz Aldrin

4. What was the goal announced by John F. Kennedy in 1961??

- a) To build the first space station
- b) To land a human on the Moon
- c) To send a robot to Mars
- d) To launch the first satellite

5. Which mission successfully landed humans on the Moon in 1969?

- a) Explorer 1
- b) Apollo 11
- c) Sputnik 1
- d) Vanguard TV3





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6) Why was Sputnik frightening to many people in the United States?

7) What happened during the Vanguard TV3 launch?

8) Why was the launch of Explorer 1 important for the United States?

9) What event marked the end of the Space Race?

10) Name two technologies developed during space research that are now used in everyday life.

MATCHING ACTIVITY

Fill in the blanks using the expressions from the Word Bank.

A. last-ditch effort

B. fall too far behind

C. catch up

D. ambitious goal

E. turn their attention to

F. marked the end

G. massive waste of time

H. dramatic increase

_____ A large or significant rise in something.

_____ A final attempt when everything else has failed.

_____ To focus on something new.

_____ To reach the same level as someone else.

_____ Something that shows something has finished.

_____ A very big and challenging objective.

_____ To become much slower or less advanced than others.

_____ Something that uses time or resources with no good result.

