

Name _____

The Race into Space

As the Cold War continued between the United States and the Soviet Union, so did the race for technology. Information gleaned from scientists during World War II helped pave the way for an era fueled by the advances in science. The United States, led by the commitment of President John F. Kennedy, worked tirelessly to beat out the Soviets in what would be called the Space Race.

President Kennedy announced to the country in 1963 that before the decade was over, America would have sent a man safely to the moon and back. At this point, the Soviets seemed to be leading the race into space. In fact, as early as 1961, a Russian cosmonaut had already been sent into orbit around Earth. The United States

would eventually send John Glenn into orbit in 1962. NASA—the National Aeronautics and Space Administration—knew they would have to step up their game if they were to beat the Soviets.

The culmination of NASA's efforts and Kennedy's dream came to fruition on July 21, 1969, when the *Apollo* astronauts took their first steps on the moon. Neil Armstrong became the first person to step onto the moon's surface. A flag from the United States was left on the surface of the moon to commemorate the events. The astronauts also left a plaque that stated that men from Earth came in peace for all mankind.

Text Questions

- What was the author's purpose in writing this text?
 - to persuade people to continue space research
 - to inform people about the original space program
 - to explain the origin of NASA
 - to entertain anyone who likes to read science fiction
- Which statement is not a fact based on the story?
 - As early as 1961, a Russian cosmonaut had already been sent into orbit around Earth.
 - Russian scientists were much smarter than American scientists, who were struggling to keep up with the Soviet's technology.
 - The United States sent John Glenn into orbit in 1962.
 - Neil Armstrong became the first person to step onto the moon's surface.
- What is a problem and a solution found in this text?
 - America wanted to beat the Soviets in the space race and were able to put the first man on the moon.
 - The Soviets wanted to beat the Americans in the space race and had a Russian cosmonaut join the American team of astronauts.
 - Kennedy made a promise to place a man on the moon by the end of the decade, and scientists worked tirelessly to put Kennedy into space.
 - The Apollo mission flew into space, and NASA was able to retrieve data about previous Soviet missions using satellites in space.
- The Space Race was a continuation of what war?
 - World War II
 - the Korean War
 - the Cold War
 - the Vietnam War
- What does the phrase "step up their game" mean as it is used in the second paragraph?
 - work harder
 - work slower
 - work longer
 - work cooperatively