

A dark blue space-themed background featuring a rocket ship in the lower center, a large blue planet on the left, a large green planet with rings on the right, and several yellow stars scattered throughout.

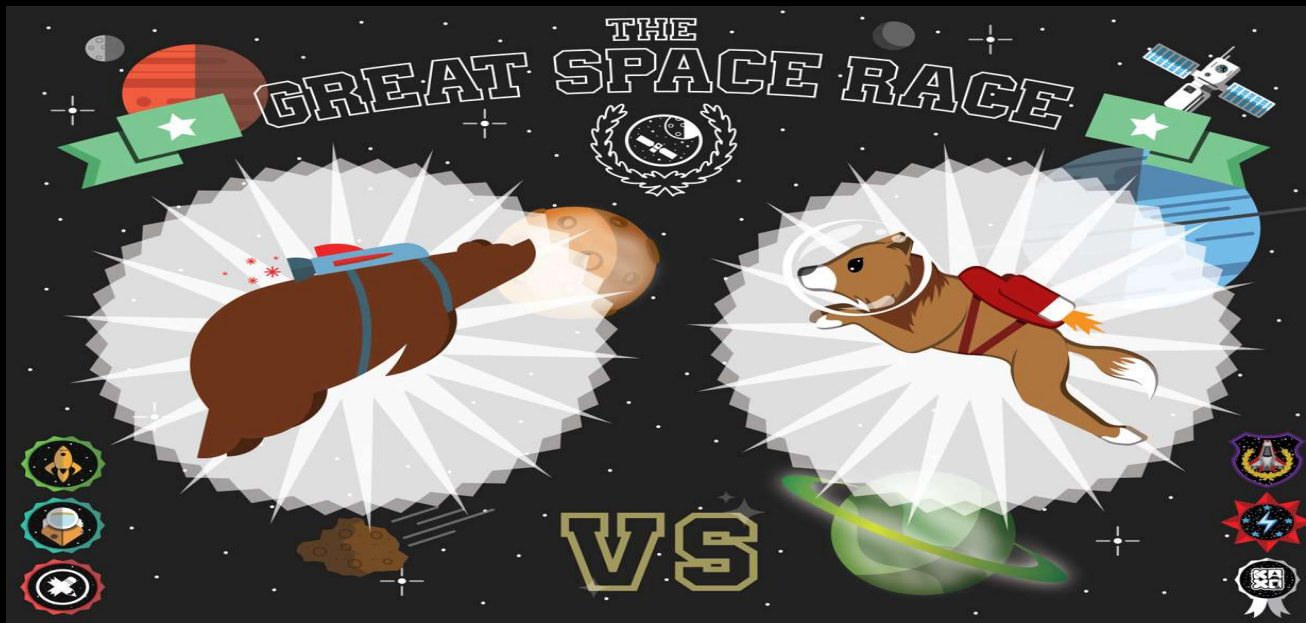
YEAR 5 HISTORY  
WEEK BEGINNING 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY

L.O.: I CAN LEARN ABOUT ANIMALS  
IN SPACE AND DEBATE WHETHER THIS  
IS ACCEPTABLE.

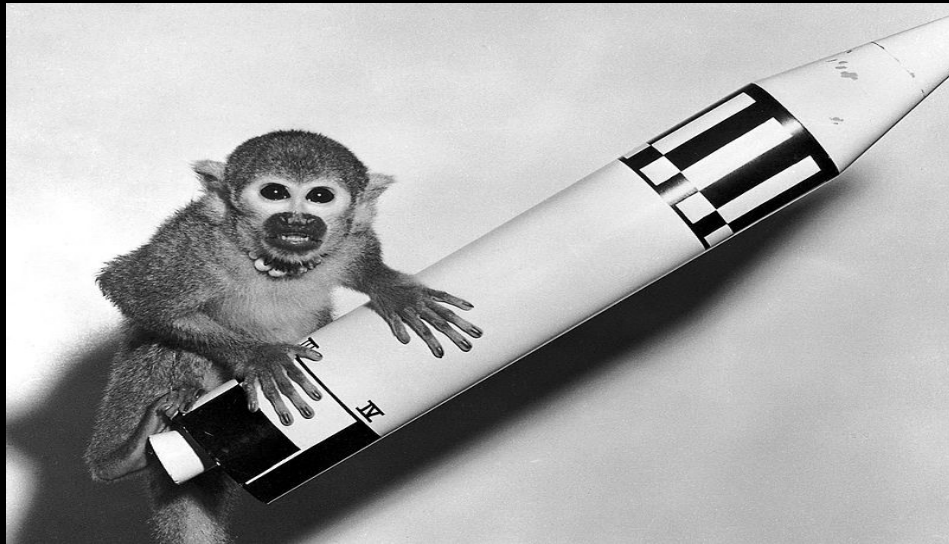


As we learnt last week, there was a great Space Race between USA and USSR. Both wanted to be the best at Space travel and exploration!

We learnt about the humans who went in to Space, but animals have played a very important part too...



Both countries were using experimental technology that was extremely dangerous and a lot was at stake. Whoever got there first, without casualties, would be the better country - and the whole world was watching. In the 1940s and 50s, Space flight was still too dangerous to risk an astronaut's life.. so animals were sent instead.



The USA sent fruit flies into space in 1947 so they were technically the first animals in space. In 1949 however, a rhesus monkey called Albert 1 reached 30-39 miles (48-63 km) altitude (height above Earth). Another monkey, Albert II, reached about 83 miles (134 km) on a different space mission. Albert II died on impact after a parachute failure.



The USSR decided to send the spacecraft 'Sputnik' into space with a stray dog called Laika as its passenger.

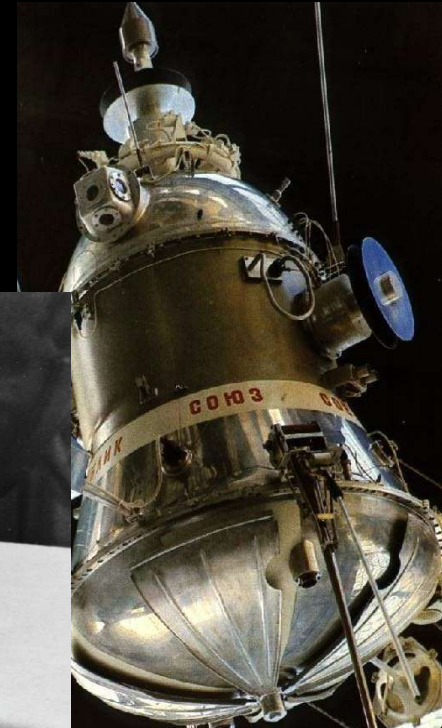
By using a dog, their scientists could see the effects of zero-gravity on a living animal.

They believed that if the mission was unsuccessful, then the loss of a dog's life wouldn't be as bad as a lost human.

On November 3rd 1957, Sputnik 2 was launched into space with Laika.

She had gone from being a stray dog in Moscow to being an animal astronaut pioneer.

Watch a 1-minute video about her here: <https://youtu.be/I6poX9eah8g>

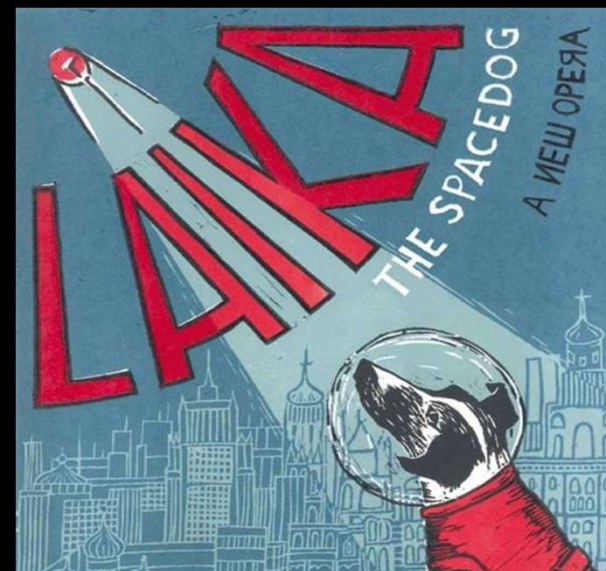


Laika died within hours of take off due to overheating. This was not made public until 50 years later. The Russian government wanted to give the impression of a successful space programme so they stated she had been euthanised (put to sleep).

The mission was, however, deemed a success by the Russian government as they now knew a living being could survive take off and orbit.

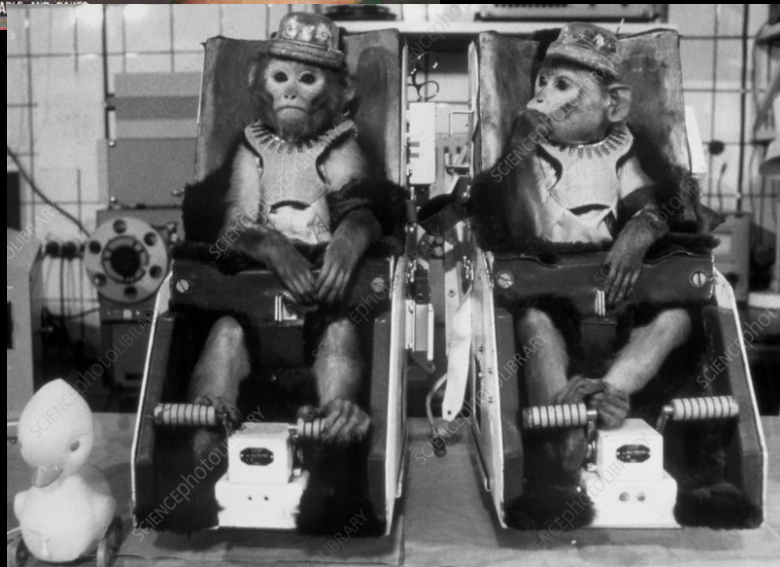


Laika is considered a hero in the USSR. There have been books written about her, she has appeared on stamps, ornaments, coins and even a statue has been erected in her honour.





In May 1959, Able and Baker (monkeys) were the first animals to survive a space mission aboard a spacecraft called 'Jupiter IRBM'. They withstood forces 38 times the normal pull of gravity and were weightless for about 9 minutes. Both monkeys returned to Earth in a good condition. Able, however, died 4 days after his space flight due to complications during an operation. Baker lived until he was 27 years old.



In 1960, two dogs called Belka and Strelka spent a whole day in space aboard Sputnik 5 in 1960 along with a rabbit called Marfusha, 42 mice, 2 rats, flies, plants and fungi.

All animal astronauts survived the mission.







On 31 January 1961, Ham the Chimp was launched into space in capsule aboard a Redstone rocket. The chimp had been trained to pull levers to receive rewards of banana pellets and avoid electric shocks. His flight demonstrated the ability to perform tasks during spaceflight.





Ham returned to Earth safely and became somewhat of a celebrity in the USA. 3 months later, Enos the chimp became the first chimpanzee in orbit on 29 November 1961, in another capsule, Mercury-Atlas 5. It is rumoured that Enos was so grateful to get out of his spaceship that as soon as he was let out, he went around shaking all the NASA scientist's hands.



Watch a 2-minute video about Ham here:  
<https://youtu.be/9wdbV4SBGYo>



Although the 'Space Race' ended a long time ago, scientists continue to send animals into space.

Over the last 40 years, the following animals have been sent into space (along with the usual array of dogs, rats and monkeys):

Bull frogs, tree frogs, newts, crickets, mice, cats, tortoises, frogs, newts, fruit flies, snails, carp, bees, spiders, sea urchins, swordtail fish, gypsy moth eggs, stick insect eggs, brine shrimp, quail eggs, and jellyfish, butterflies.



Your task:

Write a short piece answering the below question.

**'Is it acceptable to send animals in to Space?'**

Choose one side – either **supporting** or **against** it being acceptable – and write a persuasive piece. There are some reasons for each side below to help you.

Arguments in support:

- We have learnt so much about living beings in Space from these animals.
- It showed that animals, and therefore humans, could survive in Space.
- A lot of the animals survived.
- It's better that an animal dies rather than a human and they would have died quite quickly.
- Animals aren't as intelligent as humans; they wouldn't have understood that they were in danger.

Arguments against:

- Lots of innocent animals died.
- An animal's life is as important as a human's.
- Humans and animals are not the same so why send an animal?
- The animals would have been scared and in pain.
- The animals don't have a choice, they are forced; humans can choose whether to go to Space or not.