

The background is a dark blue gradient with faint, light blue circular patterns and dashed lines, resembling orbital paths or technical diagrams. Some of these patterns include numerical scales, such as one ranging from 140 to 260.

THE HISTORY OF SPACE EXPLORATION

YEAR 5 HISTORY - WEEK BEGINNING 27TH APRIL.

L.O.: I CAN UNDERSTAND THE KEY EVENTS IN 'THE SPACE RACE'

- Last week, we learnt about the very early discoveries and theories about space. Let's do a quick quiz to see what you can remember:

1. What did the Ancient Greek astronomers think was at the centre of the Solar System?

A) The Moon B) The Earth C) The Sun D) Mars

2. What actually is at the centre of the Solar System?

A) The Moon B) The Earth C) The Sun D) Mars

3. Who discovered gravity?

A) Valentina Tereshkova B) Isaac Newton C) Albert Einstein D) Galileo Galilei

4. Who invented the first telescope to see accurately in to space?

A) Valentina Tereshkova B) Isaac Newton C) Santa Claus D) Galileo Galilei

5. What are Saturn's rings made up of?

A) Stars and asteroids B) Alien farts C) Chunks of ice and rock D) Gas, stones and lava

- Answers:

1. What did the Ancient Greek astronomers think was at the centre of the Solar System?

B) The Earth

2. What actually is at the centre of the Solar System?

C) The Sun

3. Who discovered gravity?

B) Isaac Newton

4. Who invented the first telescope to see accurately in to space?

D) Galileo Galilei

5. What are Saturn's rings made up of?

C) Chunks of ice and rock

LET'S FAST-FORWARD TO 1957. THAT IS ONLY 63 YEARS AGO –
QUITE RECENTLY IN TERMS OF HISTORY!

- After World War 2, came The Cold War. It was between United States of America (U.S. or U.S.A) and Russia (which then was called The Soviet Union or USSR). Although there was no physical fighting, here was a lot of tension and rivalry between these 2 huge and powerful countries.
- One area of rivalry was all about which country could send an object in to space first! The Soviets and the Americans both wanted to be first! This started 'The Space Race'!



SPACE RACE – KEY EVENTS

- Watch this video about the Space race. <https://youtu.be/FxpC-8f--xo> There is quite a lot of information involved so I've put the key events below.

Date	Event	Country responsible
October 1957	First artificial satellite in space First signals received from space	Soviet Union
December 1958	First communications satellite (used for TV, phone signals etc)	USA
August 1959	First photograph of Earth from orbit	USA
April 1961	First human space flight (Yuri Gagarin)	Soviet Union
November 1964	First photographs taken of Mars (meant we knew what it looked like and maybe if anything was living there!)	USA
March 1965	First 'spacewalk' – human leaving the spacecraft to float in space!	Soviet Union
July 1969	First humans on the moon (Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin)	USA
December 1971	First probe lands on Mars and sends back images	Soviet Union

WHO WON THE SPACE RACE?

From the table on the previous page, you can see the U.S. and the Soviet Union both achieved very important things in the 'Space Race'. **But, who do you think won the Space Race??**



- Do you think it was Soviet Union because they were the first to send a satellite in to space, arguably starting the whole thing? Or maybe the Soviets because they sent the first human in to Space... but could it be America, because they actually had people land on the moon first? Maybe you think America because they took the first photo of Mars so we knew that there weren't huge cities of aliens on there! Although Soviet union were the first to actually land an object on Mars...?!
- It's a really tough decision, but I'd like you to decide who won the Space Race and **write a speech or design a poster convincing people of why the country you choose is the winner!** Remember to be persuasive and include all the important facts. You might like to do your own research to support your argument!