

History of space exploration

When and how did people explore space? Here are the most important moments in the past 70 years.



Yuri Gagarin

1957 - The Soviet Union launched the first satellite ever, the Sputnik.

1961 - On 12th April, Yuri Gagarin became the first man who went into space. He orbited the Earth in about two hours. Two years later, Valentina Tereshkova was the first woman in space.



Apollo 11

1969 - On 30th July, first two men walked on the Moon. They were Americans Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin.

1970 - Pioneer 10 was the first spacecraft to fly through the asteroid belt. Next year, it reached Jupiter and sent back photographs.

1971 - The first probe landed on Mars. This was also the year when the first space station went into space.

1975 - People received images from the surface of a planet for the first time. It was Venus.

1981 - The first space shuttle, Columbia, went into space.

1984 - Men dared to walk in space without being tied to a shuttle.

1990 - The Hubble Space Telescope went into Earth orbit. It helped us learn a lot about space. Astronauts regularly repair it, upgrade it and replace its systems.

1992 - We discovered the first planets outside our Solar system.

2000 - First astronauts came to the International Space Station. It is the only fully functional space station today.

2001 - Dennis Tito was the first person who went into space as a tourist. His trip cost about \$20 million.



Curiosity rover

2003 -Two exploration rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, landed on Mars. They explored Mars until they stopped being active in 2010 and 2018.

2015 - New Horizons spacecraft was the first one to reach Pluto, after nine years of travelling through the Solar System.

2019 - China landed Chang'e 4 spacecraft on the dark side of the Moon.



New Horizons Pluto

Tasks:

- 1 Tick the people and events you heard about before.
- 2 Circle five most interesting newly learned things from the text.
- 3 Write down questions about five pieces of information you didn't know before.
- 4 Close the book and have a class competition to see who can get most answers right.
- 5 Pick one event to make a class presentation about.