

The table below contains all the key events in the space race during the period 1957 to 1969.

- Read about each event and then illustrate it with a simple drawing.
- Colour-code each event in either **red** for the USSR or **blue** for the USA.

Event in the space race	Illustrate this event
On 4 October 1957 the USSR launched a satellite, Sputnik 1, into space. The satellite transmitted radio signals and gave the Soviets information about the Earth's upper atmosphere. It was possible to see Sputnik from all around the globe. It sent signals to the Earth for 22 days until its batteries ran out. It fell to Earth in January 1958.	
On 3 November 1957 the Soviets sent Sputnik 2 into space. This was the first space craft to carry a living animal – a dog called Laika. The mission gave the Soviets information about the impact of being in space on animals. Laika died of overheating after a few hours but this was not reported at the time.	
On 31 January 1958 the USA launched Explorer 1 – a satellite which transmitted data for four months until its batteries ran out.	
On 7 October 1959 the USSR sent a space probe called Luna 3 into outer space to take photographs of the dark side of the Moon.	
On 19 August 1960 the USSR sent two dogs called Belka and Strelka into space with a grey rabbit, 40 mice, two rats and some flies. The animals spent a day orbiting the Earth on Sputnik 5 before they all returned safely to Earth.	
On 31 January 1961 the USA sent 'Ham the Astro-chimp' into space where he performed the task of pulling a lever within 5 seconds. He returned to Earth safely, only suffering a bruised nose. His flight lasted for nearly 17 minutes.	
On 12 April 1961 the Soviet Yuri Gagarin became the first man to go into space when his Vostok spacecraft completed an orbit of the Earth.	

<p>On 5 May 1961 Alan Shepard became the second person, and first American, to go into space. He did not orbit the Earth but instead went straight up and down again. (In 1971 he became the fifth person to walk on the Moon – and even played a bit of golf!)</p>	
<p>On 20 February 1962 John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth. He also became the fifth person in space.</p>	
<p>On 10 July 1962 the USA launched Telstar 1. It successfully relayed through space the first television pictures, telephone calls, fax images and provided the first live transatlantic television feed.</p>	
<p>On 16 June 1963 the Soviet Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman in space. She spent three days in space and performed various tests on herself to collect data on the female body's reaction to space flight.</p>	
<p>On 12 October 1964 the Soviets sent the first group of astronauts to space who were not wearing space suits.</p>	
<p>On 18 June 1965 the Soviet Alexey Leonov became the first human to go on a space-walk. He was outside the spacecraft for 12 minutes and was connected to the craft by a 5 metre tether.</p>	
<p>On 21 December 1968 the second manned mission in the US Apollo space program, Apollo 8, was launched. It became the first manned spacecraft to leave Earth orbit, reach the Earth's Moon, orbit it and return safely to Earth.</p>	
<p>On 20 July 1969 Apollo 11 took three US astronauts to the Moon. Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon and Buzz Aldrin the second. They spent two and half hours exploring the Moon and then returned to the command module and came safely back to Earth.</p>	



- Plot each event in the space race according to its significance (the most important at the top, and the least important at the bottom). If it was a Soviet achievement use a **red** cross. Use a **blue** cross for American achievements. Label your crosses with brief descriptions of the events (e.g. 'moon landing'). When the graph is complete join the crosses with **red** and **blue** lines.
- Now answer the question 'who won the space race?' Explain your answer fully.

### Teaching notes

A PowerPoint presentation accompanies this resource (for subscribers only). This includes a slide with images (courtesy of NASA) of the main events. This can be shown during the illustration task.

### Starter ideas

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A nice start to the lesson is to play David Bowie's 'Space Oddity'  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcyuKUtgyZ8>.

This can be done as students enter the room. NB there is an advertisement which precedes the music video.

You could also show the short (5 minute) clip <http://www.history.com/topics/space-race/videos/space-race-cold-war-front> which shows the key events of the space race. This could be done before students engage in the detailed work of the table. This would also give them inspiration for their drawings.

### Lesson development

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The activities in this lesson are designed to develop students understanding of the events of the space race. The illustration task should help students **describe** the key events. The graph should develop their ability to **assess** the relative achievements of the USA and USSR. The final question asks students to **explain** who won the space race.

Discussion in class could bring out the idea of why the space race mattered so much to the Soviets and Americans.

