







1957–1958			
Significance	USSR	US	
First intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM)	R-7 Semyorka		
First artificial satellite First signals from space	Sputnik 1		
First dog in orbit (Laika)	Sputnik 2		
First US satellite, detection of Van Allen radiation belts		Explorer 1- ABMA	
First solar powered satellite		Vanguard 1- NRL	
First communications satellite		Project SCORE- ABMA	
	Significance First intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) First artificial satellite First signals from space First dog in orbit (Laika) First US satellite, detection of Van Allen radiation belts First solar powered satellite First communications	Significance First intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) First artificial satellite First signals from space First dog in orbit (Laika) First US satellite, detection of Van Allen radiation belts First solar powered satellite First communications	

1959			
Date	Significance	USSR	US
2 Jan 1959	First rocket engine restart First lunar spacecraft First detection of solar wind	Luna 1	
4 Jan 1959	First human-made object in heliocentric orbit	Luna 1	
17 Feb 1959	First weather satellite		Vanguard 2- NASA
28 Feb 1959	First satellite in a polar orbit		Discoverer 1- USAF/ARPA
25 Jun 1959	First spy satellite to carry a camera (didn't achieve orbit)		Discoverer 4- USAF/ARPA
7 Aug 1959	First photograph of Earth from orbit		Explorer 6- NASA
14 Sep 1959	First impact into another celestial body (Moon)	Luna 2	
7 Oct 1959	Photo of far side of the Moon	Luna 3	

1960			
Date	Significance	USSR	US
1 Apr 1960	First Imaging weather satellite		TIROS-1- NASA
5 Jul 1960	First successful US spy satellite		GRAB-1-NRL
11 Aug 1960	First satellite recovered intact from orbit		Discoverer 13- SAF/ARPA
1 Aug 1960	First passive communications satellite		Echo 1A- NASA
18 Aug 1960	First successful recovery of film from an orbiting satellite First aerial recovery of an object from Earth orbit		Discoverer 14- SAF/ARPA
19 Aug 1960	First animals and plants returned alive from space (Belka and Strelka)	Sputnik 5	

	1961		
Date	Significance	USSR	US
12 Feb 1961	First launch from Earth orbit of upper stage into a heliocentric orbit	Venera 1	
12 Apr 1961	First human spaceflight (Yuri Gagarin) First orbital flight of a manned vehicle	Vostok 1	
5 May 1961	First pilot-controlled space flight (Alan Shepard) First complete human spaceflight		Freedom 7
19 May 1961	First planetary flyby (Venus)	Venera 1	
6 Aug 1961	First crewed mission lasting a full day (Gherman Titov).	Vostok 2	

	1962		
Date	Significance	USSR	US
7 Mar 1962	First orbital solar observatory		OSO-1- NASA
26 Apr 1962	First spacecraft to impact the far side of the Moon ¹		Ranger 4- NASA
10 Jul 1962	First active comm satellite		Telstar- AT&T
12 Aug 1962	First dual crew spaceflight First ship-to-ship radio contact (Andriyan Nikolayev and Pavel Popovich)	Vostok 3 Vostok 4	
29 Sep 1962	First artificial satellite constructed by a non-superpower	Canada –	- Alouette 1
14 Dec 1962	First planetary flyby by a US mission (Venus)		Mariner 2- NASA

	1963		
Date	Significance	USSR	US
16 Jun 1963	First woman in space (Valentina Tereshkova) First civilian in space	Vostok 6	
19 Jun 1963	Five-day human spaceflight record	Vostok 5	
19 Jul 1963	First reusable piloted spacecraft and the first spaceplane (X-15, suborbital)		X-15 Flight 90-NASA
26 Jul 1963	First geosynchronous satellite		Syncom 2- NASA
5 Dec 1963	First satellite navigation system		NAVSAT- USN

	1964	v.	
Date	Significance	USSR	US
19 Aug 1964	First geostationary satellite		Syncom 3- NASA
12 Oct 1964	First multi-person crew (3)	Voskhod 1	
ROSC	COSMOS	ASA	

1965			
Date	Significance	USSR	US
18 Mar 1965	First extra-vehicular activity ("space walk")	Voskhod 2	
23 Mar 1965	First piloted spacecraft orbit change		Gemini 3- NASA
14 Jul 1965	First Mars flyby		Mariner 4- NASA
29 Aug 1965	Eight-day human spaceflight record		Gemini 5- NASA
15 Dec 1965	First orbital rendezvous (station-keeping, no docking) ²		Gemini 6A / Gemini 7-NASA
18 Dec 1965	14-day human spaceflight record		Gemini 7- NASA

	1966		
Date	Significance	USSR	US
3 Feb 1966	First soft landing on moon; First photos from moon	Luna 9	
1 Mar 1966	First impact into another planet (Venus)	Venera 3	
16 Mar 1966	First spacecraft docking		Gemini 8 / ATV-NASA
3 Apr 1966	First artificial satellite to orbit another celestial body: the Moon	Luna 10	
12 Sep 1966	First direct-ascent rendezvous on first orbit Record highest apogee, 1,374 kilometers (854 mi), for piloted Earth orbit		Gemini 11/ATV- NASA
12-14 Nov	First 5.5 hr extra-vehicular activity/practical work		Gemini 12- NASA

1967-1968			
Date	Significance	USSR	US
30 Oct 1967	First docking of two remote-controlled spacecraft	Cosmos 186/ Cosmos 188	
7 Dec 1968	First orbital ultraviolet observatory		OAO-2- NASA
21 Dec 1968	First human-crewed spaceflight to, and orbit of, another celestial object: the Moon First human spaceflight that escaped Earth's influence		Apollo 8- NASA

1969			
Date	Significance	USSR	US
16 Jan 1969	First crew exchange in space	Soyuz 4 / Soyuz 5	
20 Jul 1969	First humans on the Moon First space launch from another celestial body		Apollo 11- NASA
19 Nov 1969	First precisely targeted piloted landing on the Moon (Surveyor 3 site) First man to dance on the Moon (Pete Conrad)		Apollo 12- NASA

Apollo 11

Mission Objective

Complete a national goal set by President John F. Kennedy on May 25, 1961: perform a crewed lunar landing and return to Earth.

Crew

Neil Armstrong, Commander Edwin E. Aldrin Jr., Lunar Module Pilot Michael Collins, Command Module Pilot

Backup Crew

James A. Lovell, Commander
Fred W. Haise Jr., Lunar Module Pilot
William A. Anders, Command Module Pilot















