



Teacher Resource

Russia Space Race

Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. The space race was between which two countries?
2. What was the name of the war between the United States and the Soviet Union in which they never directly fought each other?
3. Who was the first human to be launched into space?
 - a. Yuri Gagarin
 - b. Alan Shepard
 - c. Neil Armstrong
4. Which country was the first to land on the moon?
5. Not long after the moon landing, the Soviet Union and the US started working together. True or false?
6. What did Russia announce recently?

Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the Russia Space Race story as a class using the following questions to guide discussion:

- What is the space race?
- The space race was between which two countries?
- What did Russia announce recently?
- What is the International Space Station?
- Why do humans explore space?
- How has space exploration affected people's lives?



Activity: Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Russia Space Race story. Here are some words to get them started.

COLD WAR	SOVIET UNION	SATELLITE
EXPLORATION	SPACE RACE	COSMONAUT

EPISODE 21

2nd August 2022

KEY LEARNING

Students will learn more about the space race and key events in space exploration.

CURRICULUM

Science – Year 5

The Earth is part of a system of planets orbiting around a star (the sun).

Science – Years 5 & 6

Scientific knowledge is used to solve problems and inform personal and community decisions.

Science – Year 7

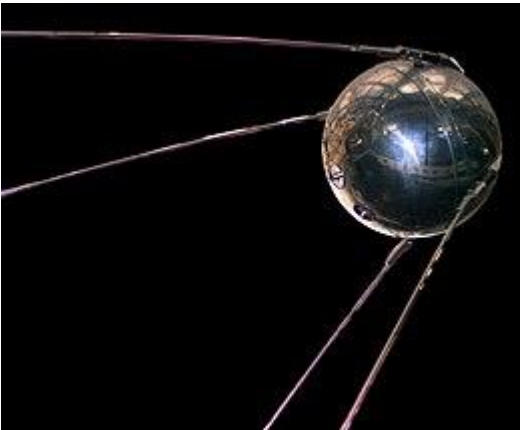
Scientific knowledge has changed peoples' understanding of the world and is refined as new evidence becomes available.

Activity: Milestones in Space Exploration

Students will look at the images below that relate to some key events in space exploration. Ask students to find out more about each event and choose **at least two more** milestones in space exploration.

They can use the following questions to help guide their research.

- What is happening in the image? What does it show?
- When did it happen?
- Why is the event an important milestone in space exploration?
- What question/s do you have about the image/event?



[Source of image](#)



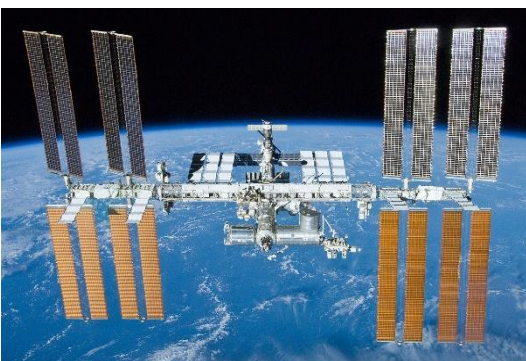
[Source of image](#)



[Source of image](#)



[Source of image](#)



[Source of image](#)



[Source of image](#)

Activity: Space Race Information Report

Students will create an information report about the space race. The following may help guide students' research:

- What is the space race?
- When and why did it begin?
- Significant events in the space race.
- Impact of the space race on space exploration.
- Interesting facts about the space race.

Structure and features of an information report

Information reports are factual texts written to inform and provide detailed facts about a topic. Discuss with students what they already know about the purpose, structure, and features of an information report. Use the following as a guide to use with students.

- **Purpose** – An information report provides information to the reader by stating facts.
- **Structure** – see table below.
- **Language features** – write in the present tense, use technical or scientific words, and write in the third person.

Students can then use the following structure to help write their report. They can present their reports using publishing software or as a brochure.

Title

- States the topic.

Introduction

- The opening statement explains the subject of the report and includes a definition or short description.

Body

- Facts grouped into paragraphs. Starts with a topic sentence. Include subject specific language. Text features such as sub-headings, labelled diagrams, charts and captioned photographs may be included.

Conclusion

- A summary of what the topic is about and end with an interesting fact.

Activity: Get to know the ISS

Discussion questions

- What is the ISS? Why do we have an International Space Station?
- What do astronauts do on the ISS?
- How does the work carried out by the ISS astronauts contribute to science and affect life on Earth?
- What are some amazing moments on the ISS?
- How has technology used in space exploration changed over time?



Further investigation

- Learn more about the [Spacewalks at the Station](#)
- Find out what the astronauts are up to on the ISS and the research what they are doing by checking out the [Space Station blog update](#)
- [Spot the International Space Station](#). Watch the ISS pass overhead from locations all around the world. It is the third brightest object in the sky and easy to spot if you know when to look. Enter your location to find out when you can see it.

Activity: Space Race Quiz

1. The space race was part of which war?

- A. World War II
- B. Vietnam War
- C. Cold War

2. Which decade did the space race begin?

- A. 1950s
- B. 1960s
- C. 1970s

3. The space race was between which two countries?

- A. US and Germany
- B. Soviet Union and US
- C. Soviet Union and Germany

4. What were Soviet space pilots called?

- A. Astronaut
- B. Cosmonaut
- C. Moscovite

5. What was the name of Earth's first artificial satellite?

- A. Sputnik 1
- B. Hubble
- C. Explorer 1

6. Who was the first animal to orbit Earth?

- A. Laika
- B. Luka
- C. Leticia

7. Who was the first person launched into space?

- A. Neil Armstrong
- B. Buzz Aldrin
- C. Yuri Gagarin

8. What NASA program put people on the moon?

- A. Sputnik
- B. Apollo
- C. Gemini

Quiz Answers: 1C, 2A, 3B, 4B, 5A, 6A, 7C, 8B

Useful Websites

- [Russia is saying goodbye to the International Space Station, will this take the space race back to the future?](#) – ABC News
- [Russia will withdraw from the International Space Station after 2024, but US official says NASA has not been told](#) – ABC News
- [Space Race](#) – BTN