


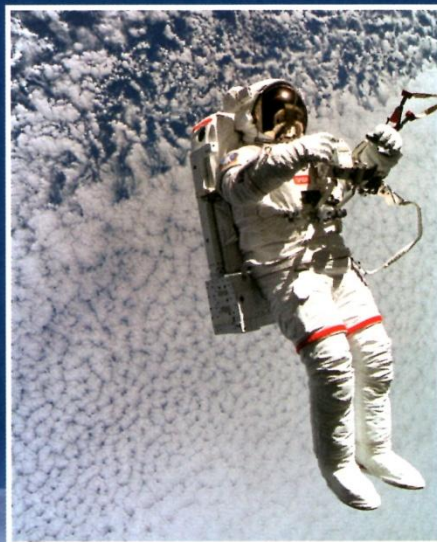
9

Journeys into space

Reading

Before reading

- 1 Discuss these questions.
 - 1 Would you like to be an astronaut?
 - 2 Where have people gone in space?
 - 3 Which planets have spacecraft visited?
- 2  Read and listen.



The History of Space Exploration

For thousands of years people have wanted to know more about space. In ancient Babylon people studied the sun and stars. The ancient Egyptians used the stars to tell the time. In 1609, the Italian scientist Galileo was the first person to study the moon and stars through a telescope. But when did people actually begin to explore space?

Space exploration might not have been possible without an ancient Chinese invention: fireworks. The Chinese filled sticks with gunpowder. When they threw the sticks into a fire, the sticks flew into the air and exploded. These were the first rockets.

In 1898, Russian scientist Konstantin Tsiolkovsky said that people could use rockets to travel into space. For the next few decades, scientists all over the world worked on rockets. On October 4th 1957, a Russian team used a rocket to send the first satellite into space.

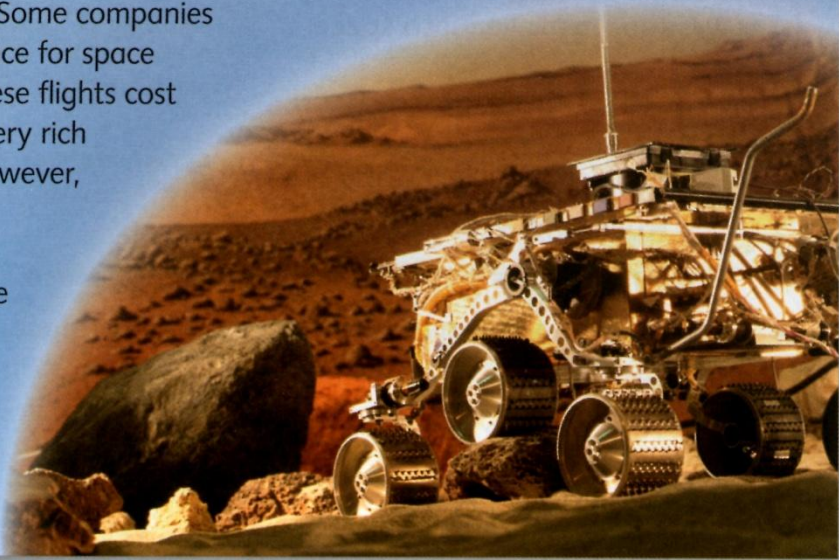
When this trip was successful, they decided to send a dog into space. On November 3rd 1957, a dog called Laika became the first living creature to travel into space. Sadly, Laika died before the rocket returned to Earth. On August 19th 1960, Russian scientists sent two more dogs, Belka and Strelka, into space on the spacecraft Sputnik 5. This time, the dogs returned to Earth safely.



On April 12th 1961, Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human to go into space. Eight years later, on July 20th 1969, people all over the world turned on their televisions to see American astronaut Neil Armstrong become the first human to walk on the surface of the moon.

Since then, there have been many exciting developments in space exploration. On December 15th 1970, Venera 7 became the first spacecraft to land on another planet. The Russian spacecraft travelled to Venus and sent information about the planet back to Earth. In 1997 the American spacecraft Pathfinder landed on Mars. A small robot came out of the spacecraft, explored the surface of Mars, and sent some amazing pictures back to Earth.

In the future, perhaps astronauts will not be the only people to travel into space. Some companies already offer flights into space for space tourists. At the moment, these flights cost millions of dollars, so only very rich people can afford them. However, space companies hope that more people will be able to have holidays in space in the future. Perhaps you will visit other planets one day, and look at Earth from space.



Vocabulary

3 Use the words from the text to complete the sentences.

- 1 In many countries, you can see fantastic fireworks on New Year's Eve.
- 2 The invention of computers was an important _____ in the 20th century.
- 3 Russian astronauts are usually called _____s.
- 4 _____ is dangerous because it causes explosions.
- 5 Laika's trip was not _____ because she died.
- 6 The first _____ to land on Venus was called Venera 7.
- 7 "When did Pathfinder _____ on Mars?" – "In 1997."
- 8 The _____ of the moon is dry and rocky.
- 9 _____s in space send television pictures back to Earth.
- 10 Scientists _____ the jungle to find new plants and animals.

Reading comprehension

4 Number the events in the correct order.

- The Russians sent the first satellite into space. _____
- A spacecraft landed on Venus. _____
- The first human travelled into space. _____
- The Chinese invented fireworks. 1
- Sputnik 5 was sent into space. _____
- Neil Armstrong walked on the moon. _____
- A spacecraft landed on Mars. _____
- The first dog travelled into space. _____

5 Correct the information in **bold**.

- 1 Galileo used ^{a telescope} ~~stars~~ to study the moon.
- 2 The **Russians** were the first to use rockets.
- 3 The **Americans** sent the first satellite into space.
- 4 Laika was the first **astronaut** to travel into space.
- 5 Yuri Gagarin was the first man **on the moon**.
- 6 Venera 7 was the first spacecraft to visit **Mars**.
- 7 You can travel into space for **hundreds** of dollars.
- 8 Maybe one day we will visit **the sun**.

6 Complete the facts. Write one word in each gap.

- 1 Galileo was a _____ who lived in Italy.
- 2 Fireworks were invented by the _____.
- 3 The first living creature to travel into space was a _____ called Laika.
- 4 Yuri Gagarin was the _____ man to travel into space.
- 5 Human beings landed on the _____ in 1969.
- 6 The first spacecraft to land on _____ was called Venera 7.
- 7 A small _____ took pictures of Mars.
- 8 If you want to have a _____ into space, it will cost you a lot of money.

7 Discuss these questions with a partner or with your class.

- 1 Would you like to travel into space as a tourist?
- 2 Do you think space tourism will be popular? Why or why not?

SPACE QUIZ

- 1 Which is the smallest planet in our solar system? (It ends with Y.)
- 2 Which planet is furthest from the Sun? (It starts with N.)
- 3 What was the name of the first dog to travel in space?
- 4 How many dogs travelled in Sputnik 5?
- 5 Who was the first man on the moon? (His initials are N.A.)
- 6 When did Yuri Gagarin become the first human to go into space – 1981 or 1961?
- 7 How far is the moon from Earth – 844,000 km or 8,400 km?
- 8 What was the name of the spacecraft that sent pictures of Mars back to Earth? (It begins with P.)



Answers 1 Mercury 2 Neptune 3 Laika 4 Two 5 Neil Armstrong 6 1961
7 About 844,000 kilometres 8 Pathfinder

When you write quiz questions, use a variety of question words:

Who ... What ... When ... Which ... How many ... How far ...

Add **clues** to make questions easier:

It begins with N. It ends with W. It's got three letters.

8 Match the clues and the answers.

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| 1 It begins with S. | a Laika |
| 2 It ends with A. | b Mercury |
| 3 It's got four letters. | c Sputnik 5 |
| 4 His initials are Y.G. | d Yuri Gagarin |
| 5 It's got seven letters. | e Mars |

9 Write questions for a quiz about space or a different subject you know a lot about.

