

The Space Race

Conduct internet research and indicate which nation accomplished the event first, Russia or the USA, and provide a little background information.

Event	Russia or America and names of astronaut(s) and space vehicle (if applicable)	Year
First satellite in orbit	Russia-Sputnik Sphere that sent signal back to earth Shocked the US!	1957
First animal in space	Russia-Laika (means barker in Russian) Lived 7 days proving that animals could survive space travel	1957
First weather satellite	USA-TIROS 1 Sent first images from space	1960
First human in space	Russia-Yuri Gagarin Russian fighter pilot later killed in an aircraft accident	1961
First human to orbit the earth	Russia-Yuri Gagarin (Cosmonaut) The first US astronaut went into space but did not orbit. The second orbited.	1961
First woman in space	Russia-Valentina Tereshkova Spent 3 days in space alone.	1963
First space walk	Russia-Cosmonaut Alexei Leonov "Walk" lasted 10 minutes	1965
First spacecraft to orbit the moon	Russia-Luna 10 Signal back to earth kept going for 57 days until the battery ran out	1966
First spacecraft to land softly on the moon	Russia-Luna 9 12 th attempt on a soft landing	1966
First manned mission around the moon	USA-Apollo 8 Commander-Astronaut Frank Borman 10 orbits including Christmas Eve	1968

First humans to land on the moon	USA-Apollo 11 (Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, Michael Collins) Achieved President Kennedy's goal	1969
First unmanned spacecraft to land on Mars	USA-Viking Took 10 months to get there	1976
First reusable spacecraft (Shuttle)	USA-Columbia 135 missions in 30 years	1981
First woman to do a spacewalk	Russia-Svetlana Savitskaya 3 ½ hour space walk Major in Russian military	1984
First space telescope	USA-Hubble	1990
Oldest man in space	USA-Astronaut John Glenn Also first American to orbit the earth Former US Senator from Ohio	1998
First men to spend an entire year in space	Russia-Two cosmonauts aboard Russian space station Mir (437 days)	1988
First spacecraft to orbit Saturn.	USA-Cassini	2004
First spacecraft to leave our solar system.	USA-Pioneer 10	1972

Summarize your general observations about the list above

The Russians got off to a great start and were well ahead of the USA. The US made an all out effort in the mid-60s to catch up. The ultimate success for the US was landing a man on the moon and achieving worldwide recognition.