THE SPACE RACE

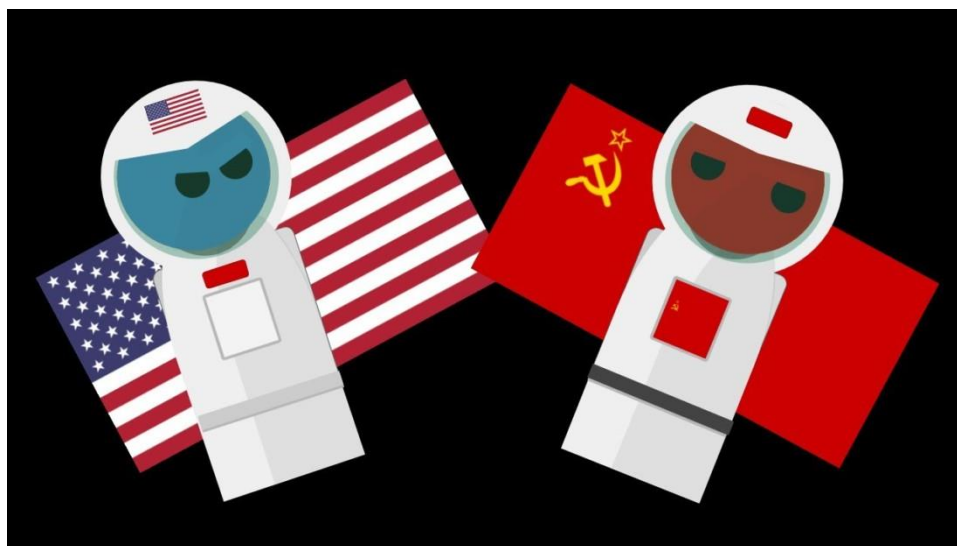"I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to earth."
– President J. F. Kennedy (25th **May 1961)**

WHAT WAS THE SPACE RACE?

Between 1957 and 1969 the Soviet Union (now known as Russia) and the United States of America (USA) competed to see who could explore space most effectively and with the best technology.

This was known as The Space Race. Both countries were determined to be the first to send humans into space and to land them on the Moon.

WHO WON THE SPACE RACE?

The Soviet Union took the lead in The Space Race when they became the first country to send a person into outer space in 1961.

The cosmonaut's name was Yuri Gagarin. A cosmonaut is somebody who has been trained and certified by the Russian Space Agency to work in space.

The President of the USA, John F Kennedy, responded to this by beginning The Apollo Program.

This project was led by NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration).

The goal was to send a human to explore the Moon and bring him home to Earth safely.

FIND OUT MORE

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. What was The Space Race?
2. Which American President began the Apollo Program?
3. Who was the first country to send someone to outer space?
4. What was the cosmonaut called?
5. When did it happen?