





So It's A Race... To Space!

W.A.L.T: timeline the major
advances in space exploration
during the Space Race

What was World War
2? How did it end?
Think, Pair, Share.



When World War 2 ended, two very powerful countries were left in a strong position. These two countries were the U.S.A and the U.S.S.R.



There was just one problem. Both of these countries had too much to lose in an all out war against each other.

Both countries had very powerful nuclear weapons that would have caused a lot of death and destruction.

So instead of a 'hot war', with lot of fighting, these two countries had a 'cold war' .



What do you think the Cold War was? What do you think happened during the Cold War?

Think, Pair, Share.



During the Cold War, the U.S.A and the U.S.S.R were both constantly trying to prove that THEY were the best. One way that they did that was through the 'Space Race'.



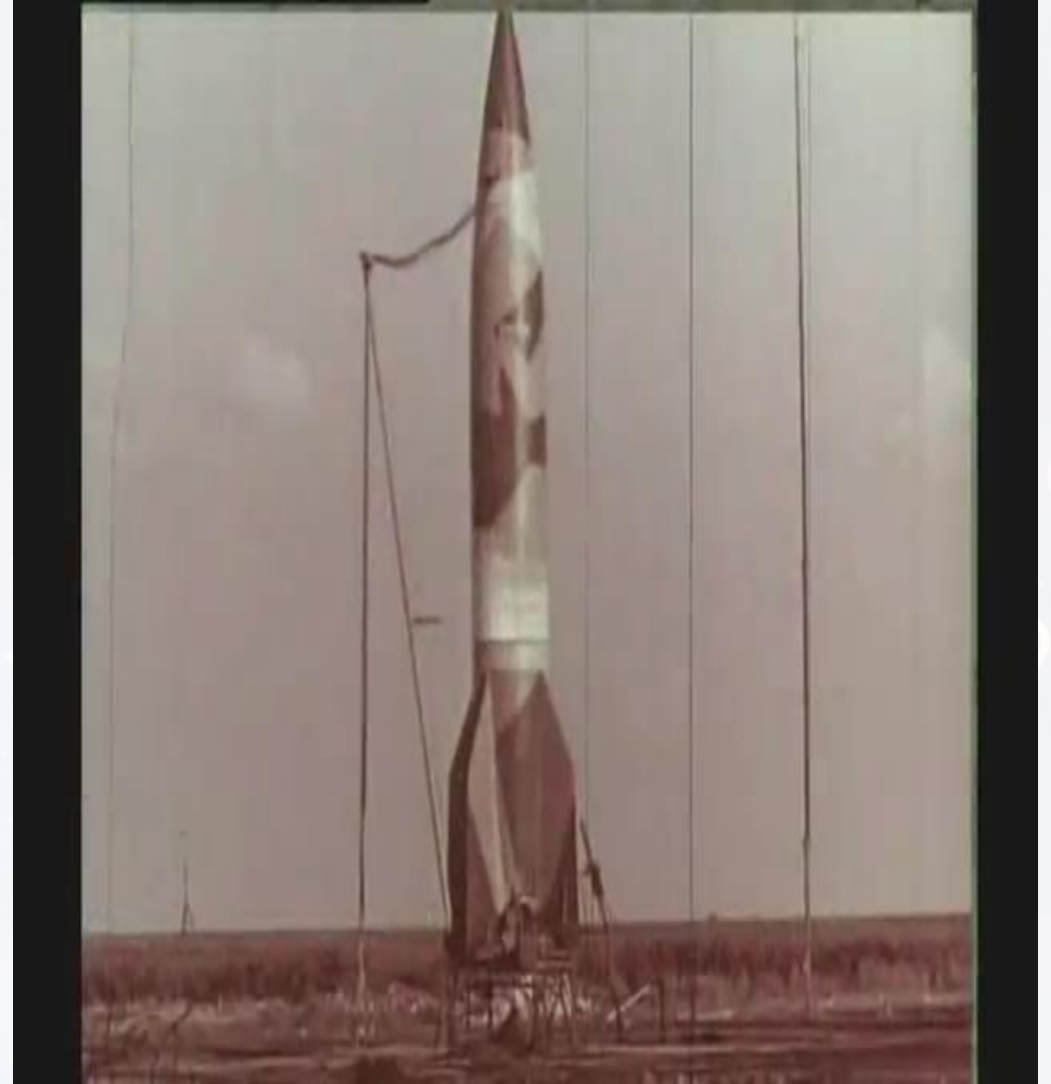
What do you think the
Space Race was?

Think, Pair, Share.



Up to this point, the only way of learning about space was by looking through telescopes. However, after W.W.2, this all changed with the invention of rockets. Now, it was possible to launch rockets into space for the first time ever.

And two countries were very interested in showing off their skills...







Both the USA and USSR wanted to show the world that their country was the best. Instead of fighting a war, the two countries had a race to see who could achieve most in space. Remember, this is at a time when humans had never left earth before!

The "Space Race" was all about firsts.

- Who could build a rocket first?
- Who could train an astronaut first?
- Who could make it to space first?


There were no prizes for second place, so both countries wanted to be first.



Activity Time

Imagine you have been hired by the leader of your country. You and your group of scientists need to think of all the space 'firsts' that your country can work on before the enemy gets it. Remember, nobody has ever even built a rocket yet!





First to...
build a
rocket
that can
make it
space!



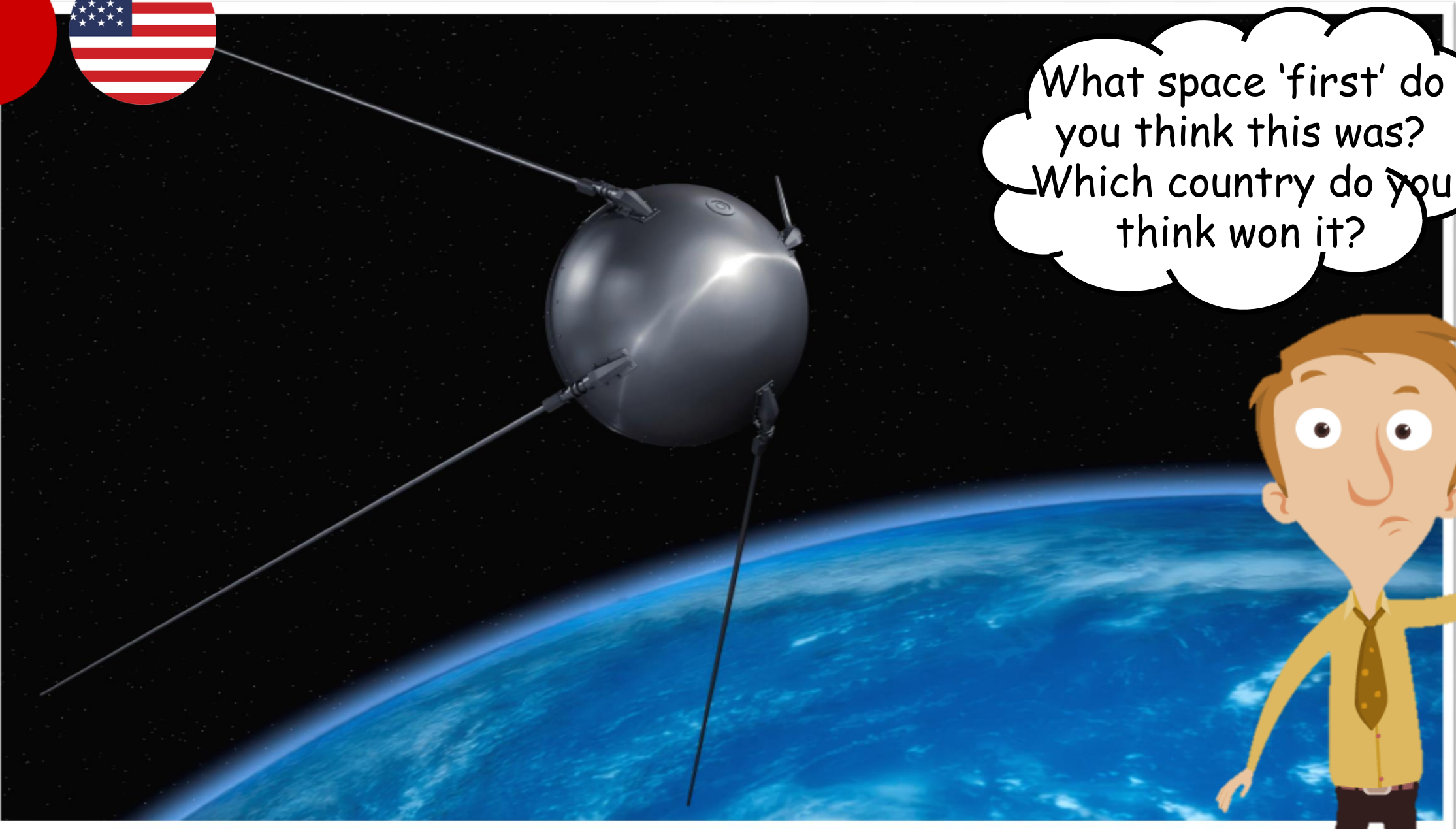
First to...
Start an
astronaut
training
school!



First to...
Send a
rocket
around the
earth!

Let's take a look at some of the firsts of the 'Space Race'. For each one, try to predict whether it was a USA win or a USSR win!

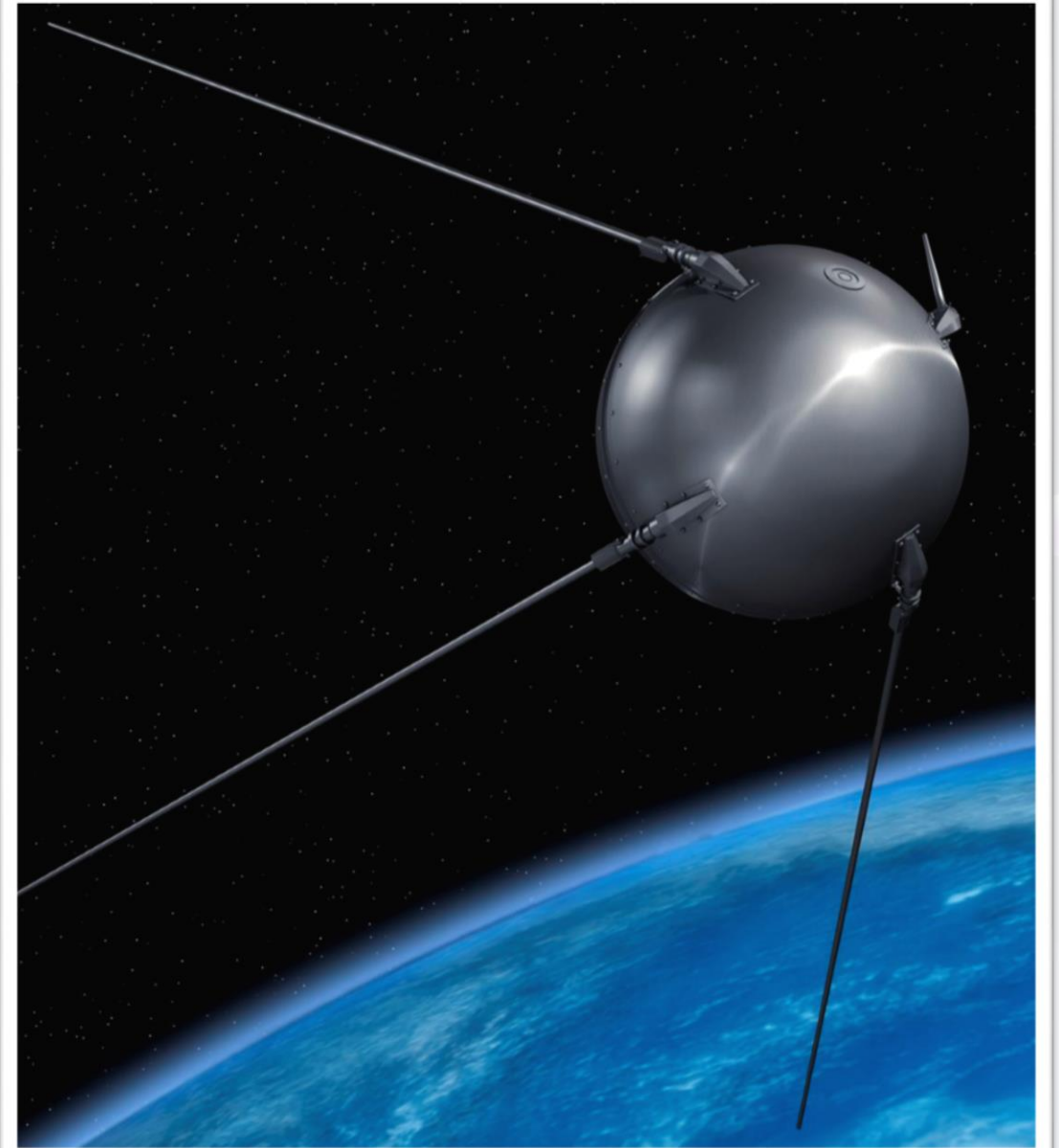




What space 'first' do you think this was?
Which country do you think won it?



This is Sputnik 1, the first ever man-made satellite launched into space! The USSR launched Sputnik in 1957. The USA were furious that the USSR were after over taking them in the Space Race and started to hire more scientists to work at NASA. It was 1 nil to the USSR.





What space 'first' do you think this was?
Which country do you think won it?



This is Laika, "the space dog". Laika was the first every animal in space. The USSR launched a rocket with Laika onboard just one month after they launched Sputnik. Poor Laika didn't survive for very long in space. She passed away after around 100 minutes. However, the USSR learned a lot about what happens to living creatures in space from this mission. It was 2 nil to the USSR.





What space 'first' do you think this was?
Which country do you think won it?



Two years after the launched Laika into space, the USSR scored the biggest win of the "Space Race" yet. In 1961, Yuri Gagarin becomes the first man in space. He spends nearly 2 hours orbiting around the earth. When Gargarin returns to the USSR he becomes to most famous celebrity in the land. The Americans send their man to space one month too late. It is a big 3 nil to the USSR.





What space 'first' do you think this was?
Which country do you think won it?



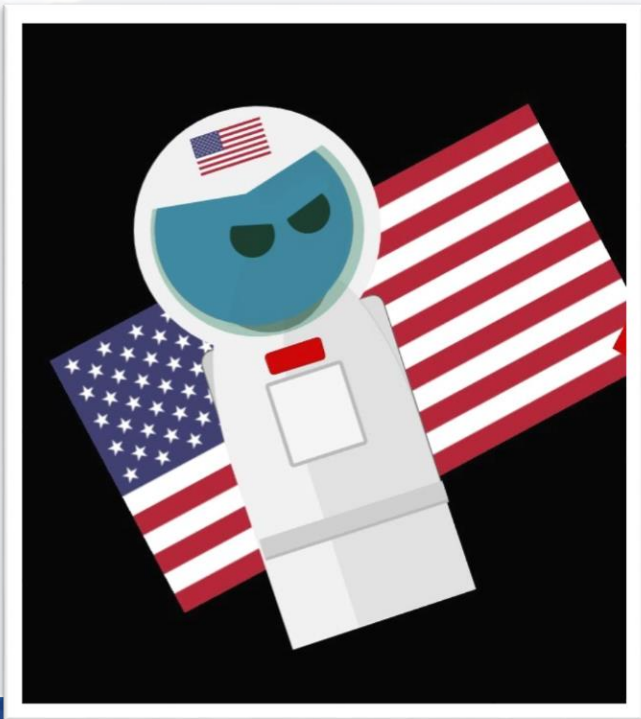
Two years after the success of Yuri Gagarin, the USSR lands another blow to the Americans by launching the first woman into space. Cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova becomes the first woman in space in 1963. She spends much longer than Gagarin up there, nearly 3 days in total! Things are getting embarrassing for the USA.



How do you think the USA
were feeling about the
Space Race? What could
they do to score a win?
Think, Pair, Share.



Things were looking bad for the USA. On nearly every single space challenge, the USSR were winning. What the USA needed was a **BIG** win. Something that was so difficult and so expensive, it would give them a lot of points on the board. Luckily, their President had an idea...





Activity Time

Imagine you are the NASA scientists. Create a drama piece showing your reaction when you receive the letter from President Kennedy ordering you to land a man on the moon.



Activity Time

Good news Professor. We finally got our hands on that former USSR computer database our contact promised. It was smuggled out so keep this quiet. Inside you will find the files with the dates and events you need to complete your 'Space Race' timeline research. Be warned though, the Soviets have encrypted the information...



Activity Time

What I'm Looking For:

- Each timeline piece to be coloured neatly
- The events to be put in order
- The background of the timeline to be decorated with pastels and pictures.
- The title 'Space Race' above the timeline

