Space Exploration

TIMELINE

4 October 1957	First artificial satellite to orbit earth, Sputnik, launched into space
3 November 1957	Sputnik II launched, carrying Laika the dog
31 January 1958	Explorer satellite launched
October 1958	NASA founded
13 September 1959	Space probe Luna 2 becomes the first man-made object to land on the moon
12 April 1961	Yuri Gagarin becomes the first human in space, making 1 orbit around Earth
5 May 1961	Alan Shepard becomes the second human in space, on a suborbital flight
20 February 1962	John Glenn becomes the first American to orbit Earth
16 June 1963	Valentina Tereshkova becomes the first woman in space
18 March 1965	Alexei Leonov becomes the first person to spacewalk
20 July 1969	Apollo 11 mission lands first humans on the moon (Neil Armstrong & Buzz Aldrin)
19 April 1971	Salyut 1, the world's first space station, launched into orbit
19 May 1971	Space probe Mars 2 explores Mars
20 July 1976	Project Viking: two probes land on Mars for the first time
12 April 1981	Space shuttle Columbia launched
28 January 1986	Explosion of space shuttle Challenger just after liftoff, killing all on board
20 February 1986	MIR Space Station launched
24 April 1990	Hubble Space Telescope launched
20 November 1998	International Space Station launched
28 April 2001	American millionaire Dennis Tito becomes the first space tourist
21 June 2004	SpaceShipOne makes the first ever privately funded manned space flight