

NASA Apollo Program

Six Apollo missions landed astronauts on the moon.



10/4/1957
Sputnik 1, the first artificial Earth satellite, is launched by Soviet Union.

Apollo Program Announced
In July 1960, NASA Deputy Administrator Hugh L. Dryden announced the Apollo program during the Eisenhower administration.



John F. Kennedy Elected
John F. Kennedy was elected president after a campaign that promised American superiority over the Soviet Union in the fields of space exploration and missile defense.



5/25/1961
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 the Earth.



9/1/1963
The Manned Spacecraft Center, later renamed the Johnson Space Center, is completed in Houston, Texas.

12/17/1958
The US announces Project Mercury, the first human spaceflight program of the United States, running from 1958 through 1963.

10/25/1960
The first three study contracts are awarded.



4/12/1961
Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first person to fly in space.

2/20/1962
Project Mercury astronaut John Glen orbits the Earth three times.



AS-101
The sixth flight of the Saturn I launch vehicle carried the first Apollo spacecraft into low Earth orbit.



10/15/1965
Launch Operations Center is completed at the Kennedy Space Center.



AS-203
Uncrewed flight of the Saturn IB rocket to test rocket stage restart capability.

1/27/1967
Fire during Apollo 1 training kills astronauts Grissom, White, and Chaffee.



4/4/1968
Apollo 6 launches to test the Command Service Module and the Lunar Module.



10/11/1968
Apollo 7 launches, crewed by Schirra, Eisele, and Cunningham, for an 11-day Earth-orbital flight.



3/13/1969
Apollo 9 launches, the first with both the command and service module (CSM) and the Lunar Module (LM).



7/20/1969
Apollo 11: That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.



4/13/1970
Apollo 13 moon landing aborted when an oxygen tank exploded in the Lunar Module.



7/26/1971
Apollo 15 deploys the first Lunar Roving Vehicle and stayed on the moon for four days.



12/11/1972
Apollo 17 begins the longest stay on the moon, with 22 hours EVA and 35 kilometers driven.



AS-201
Suborbital flight landed the Command Module in the Atlantic Ocean, demonstrating the heat shield.



AS-202
Suborbital flight to Pacific Ocean splashdown. CM heat shield tested to higher speed.

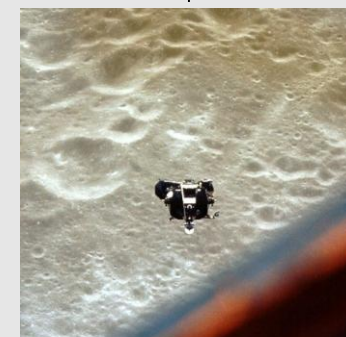


1/22/1968
Apollo 5 launches, the first uncrewed test flight of the Lunar Module in Earth orbit.

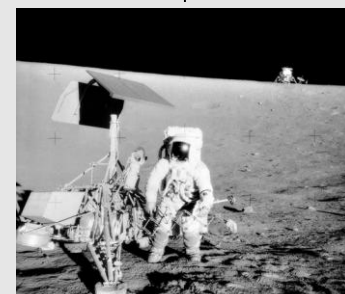
9/15/1968
The Soviet Union sent two tortoises, mealworms, wine flies, and other lifeforms around the Moon.



12/11/1968
Apollo 8 launches with Borman, Lovell, and Anders to complete ten orbits of the moon.



5/18/1969
Apollo 10 launches, to orbit the moon. The LM detached and descended to 50,000 feet.



11/19/1969
Apollo 12 lands within walking distance of the Surveyor 3 probe, launched two years earlier.



1/31/1971
Apollo 14 collects 94 pounds of moon rocks and deploys scientific instruments.



4/21/1972
Apollo 16 begins the second extended stay on the moon. They drove the Lunar Roving Vehicle for over 26 kilometers.