

# THE FIRST MAN & WOMAN IN SPACE

- 0. THE FIRST MAN & WOMAN IN SPACE Story Preface
- 1. WILBUR AND ORVILLE WRIGHT
- 2. AIRCRAFT CONTROL
- 3. LIFT AND DRAG
- 4. KITTY HAWK
- 5. THE FIRST FLIGHT
- 6. FLYER 3 and OTHER FAMOUS FLIGHTS
- 7. THE FIRST ROCKETS
- 8. EXPERIMENTAL PLANES
- 9. THE SOUND BARRIER
- 10. THE SPACE RACE

#### **11. THE FIRST MAN & WOMAN IN SPACE**

- 12. ALAN SHEPARD'S FLIGHT
- 13. JOHN GLENN'S ORBIT
- 14. DEATH IN THE COMMAND MODULE
- 15. TO THE MOON
- 16. APOLLO 11
- 17. APOLLO 13
- 18. THE SHUTTLE'S DESIGN FLAW

In this image we see the world's first man in space (Yuri Gagarin) and the world's first woman in space (Valentina Tereshkova). Both cosmonauts were from the Soviet Union. Photo by Roscosmos.

Everyone was anxious for people (not just satellites) to fly in space. Russia and the U.S. first sent up several monkeys (this link takes you to a photo of <u>Sam</u>). Experts needed to determine the effects of space travel on mammals. What, for example, was it like to be <u>weightless</u>? Some of the monkeys lived; others did not. (<u>Sam did</u>.)

Yuri Gagarin, a 27-year-old Russian, was the first person to fly in space. Although his flight on April 12, 1961 was only one orbit around the Earth, it was a huge accomplishment.

Gagarin flew in <u>Vostok</u> and followed specific <u>written procedures</u> for <u>launch</u>, orbit and descent. (Follow the link to view a copy of his original flight plan.) During training exercises for his flight, Gagarin wore a <u>pressure suit</u>. (Follow this link to see it.)

A <u>hero of the Soviet Union</u>, Gagarin was honored <u>after his flight</u> (the link takes you to historical film footage). He received the ultimate honor, at age 34, following his death in a plane crash: His ashes were buried inside the <u>Kremlin Wall</u>, in Red Square.

The Russians also sent the <u>first woman</u> into space (<u>Valentina Tereshkova</u>) and the first person to venture outside an orbiting space capsule (Aleksei Leonov).

Tethered to an airlock, Leonov "walked" <u>outside</u> his orbiting spacecraft on March 18, 1965. He almost died while doing it. His <u>space suit inflated</u> more than expected and Leonov became too large to re-enter the airlock. He had to vent some of the pressure in the suit in order to get back in.

With such an impressive string of firsts achieved by the Soviet team, it appeared they would, indeed, be first to reach the moon. But a race is never decided after the first lap.

The United States was getting positioned to catch up with, and then pass, the U.S.S.R.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-FIRST-MAN-WOMAN-IN-SPACE-History-of-Flight</u>



# See Learning Tasks for this story online at: <a href="http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-FIRST-MAN-WOMAN-IN-SPACE-History-of-Flight">http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-FIRST-MAN-WOMAN-IN-SPACE-History-of-Flight</a>

# Media Stream







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Sam the Monkey Flew to Space Successfully Image online, courtesy the University of Texas at Austin website. View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Sam-the-Monkey-Flew-to-Space-Successfully

#### Yuri Gagarin

Photo of Yuri Gagarin, online courtesy The Russian State Archive of Scientific & Technical Documents.

Passage quoting Gagarin's message, prior to his space flight, also online courtesy The Russian State Archive of Scientific & Technical Documents. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Yuri-Gagarin</u>

#### <u>Vostok - Gagarin's Space Vehicle</u> Image online, courtesy Russian State Archives. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Vostok-Gagarin-s-Space-Vehicle</u>

# Procedure List Used by Gagarin

Image online, courtesy the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum via the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Procedure-List-Used-by-Gagarin



Space Exploration - Gagarin's Pressure Suit Image online, courtesy the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Space-Exploration-Gagarin-s-Pressure-Suit

Kremlin Wall - Gagarin's Burial Site Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. PD View this asset at:



Valentina Tereshkova - First Woman in Space Image online, courtesy the Russian State Archives. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Valentina-Tereshkova-First-Woman-in-Space

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Kremlin-Wall-Gagarin-s-Burial-Site







#### Valentina Tereshkova Wearing Her Space Suit Image online, courtesy the Russian State Archives.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Valentina-Tereshkova-Wearing-Her-Space-Suit

#### <u>Leonov - Walked Outside His Orbiting Spacecraft</u> Image online, courtesy the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Leonov-Walked-Outside-His-Orbiting-Spacecraft

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### Vostok 1 - Yuri Gagarin Launches into Space

Clip from a documentary on Gagarin and *Vostok 1*, including historical footage from the Russian State Archives. Online, courtesy YouTube. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Vostok-1-Yuri-Gagarin-Launches-into-Space



# Yuri Gagarin - Hero of the Soviet Union

Video clip about Yuri Gagarin, from Russia Today. Online, courtesy Russia Today's channel at YouTube.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Yuri-Gagarin-Hero-of-the-Soviet-Union



# First Space Walk - A Near-Death Experience

From "Race for the Moon," episode four of *Space Race* (a BBC documentary/drama produced in cooperation with British, German, Russian and American teams). Copyright, BBC, all rights reserved. Clip provided here as fair use for educational purposes and to acquaint new viewers with the documentary.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/First-Space-Walk-A-Near-Death-Experience