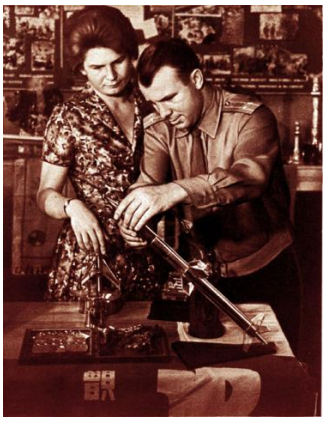
THE FIRST MAN & WOMAN IN SPACE



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

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10. THE SPACE RACE

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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 Sam). Experts needed to determine the effects of space travel on mammals. What, for example, was it like to be weightless? Some of the monkeys lived; others did not. (Sam did.)

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

A hero of the Soviet Union, Gagarin was honored after his flight (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 Kremlin Wall, in Red Square.

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

Tethered to an airlock, Leonov "walked" outside his orbiting spacecraft on March 18, 1965. He almost died while doing it. His space suit inflated 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.

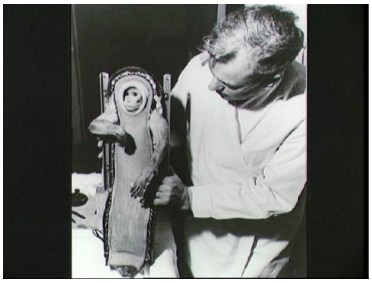
With such an impressive string of firsts achieved by the Soviet team, it appeared they would, indeed, be first to reach the moon. But a race is never decided after the first lap.

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:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-FIRST-MAN-WOMAN-IN-SPACE-History-of-Flight

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-FIRST-MAN-WOMAN-IN-SPACE-History-of-Flight

Media Stream



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.
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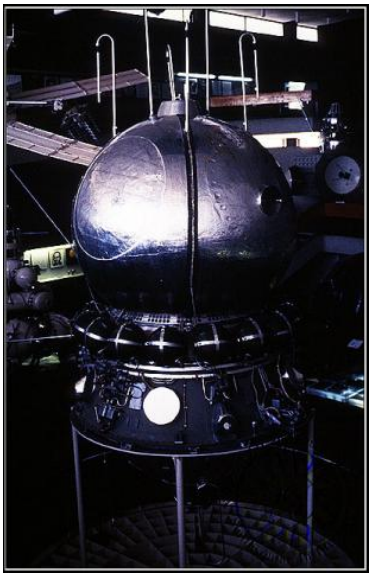

Vostok - Gagarin's Space Vehicle

Image online, courtesy Russian State Archives.
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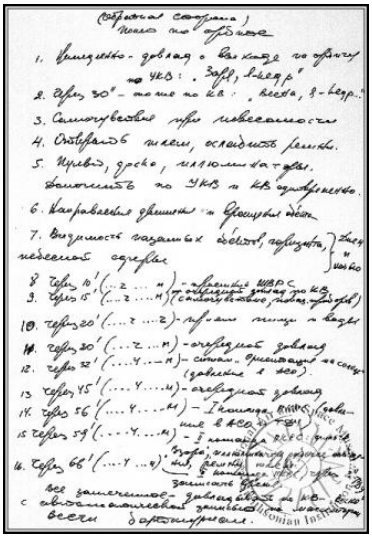

Procedure List Used by Gagarin

Image online, courtesy the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum via the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.
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Space Exploration - Gagarin's Pressure Suit

Image online, courtesy the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.
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Kremlin Wall - Gagarin's Burial Site

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.
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Valentina Tereshkova - First Woman in Space

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

Image online, courtesy the Russian State Archives.
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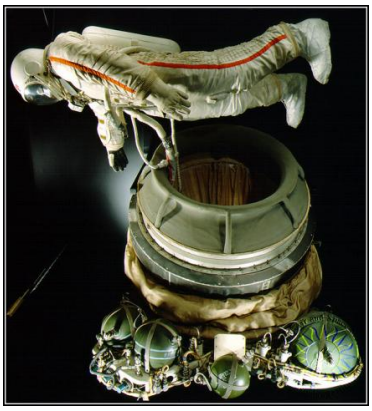

Leonov - Walked Outside His Orbiting Spacecraft

Image online, courtesy the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.
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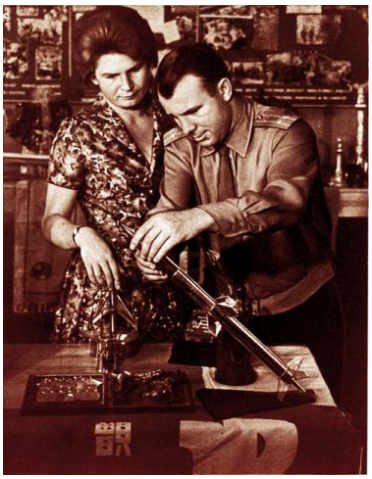

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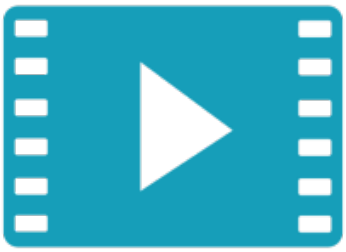
Vostok 1 - Yuri Gagarin Launches into Space

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.

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