

Global Friction

SOVIET UNION

UNITED STATES

THE SPACE RACE



SOVIET UNION

By the early 1960s, the Soviets had already demonstrated global prowess. They were the first nation to put a satellite into space and the first nation to send a man into it. 70% of the Moon's surface had already been photographed through a series of lunar missions, another first the Soviets had claimed. Quickly, as though overnight, the young regime became a nation of firsts, leading the way in our first steps into the solar system. It would be hard to imagine that its leaders thought themselves inferior to any country, especially the US. As far as sending a man to the Moon goes, it was simply another first to claim.



UNITED STATES

One month after the Soviets successfully put the first man in space, President John F. Kennedy announced before Congress his goal of sending an American to the Moon. By then, it was a universally accepted belief that the USSR was leading the US in space exploration. There was no Space Race at all, not to the Soviets, anyway. But Kennedy wanted to change that. He wanted the US to win. A mission to put the first human on the surface of the Moon would have done that. Only then would the race be won.

THE POWER OF *competition*

SOVIET UNION

- Oct 1957 • The USSR launches Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite.
- Nov 1957 • Sputnik 2 is launched.
- May 1958 • Sputnik 3 is launched.
- Sept 1959 • The USSR sends Luna 2 to the Moon. It becomes the first man-made object to impact it.
- Oct 1959 • Luna 3 photographs 70% of the Moon's surface.
- April 1961 • Yuri Gagarin becomes the first man to enter space.
- June 1963 • Valentina Tereshkova becomes the first woman to enter space.
- March 1965 • Alexey Leonov performs the first spacewalk.
- April 1966 • Luna 10 becomes the first spacecraft to orbit the Moon.
- Sept 1968 • Zond 5 is launched, becoming the first spacecraft to circle the Moon and land back on Earth.

UNITED STATES

- The US launches Explorer 1, nearly four months after Sputnik • Jan 1958
- NASA is formed, replacing NACA • Oct 1958
- Pioneer 1 is launched to orbit the Moon, but it missed.
- Pioneer 4 is launched on an Earth-Moon trajectory.
- Alan Shepard becomes the first American in space.
- President John F. Kennedy addresses Congress with a goal to send humans to the Moon.
- Ranger 7 successfully transmits close-range images of the Moon back to Earth.
- Surveyor 1 soft-lands on the Moon.
- Apollo 8 becomes the first manned spacecraft to orbit the Moon and return safely to Earth.
- Apollo 10 is launched as the "dress rehearsal" for the Moon landing.

1955

1960

1965

1970

+3 YEARS

+13.8 YEARS





A Defining Moment

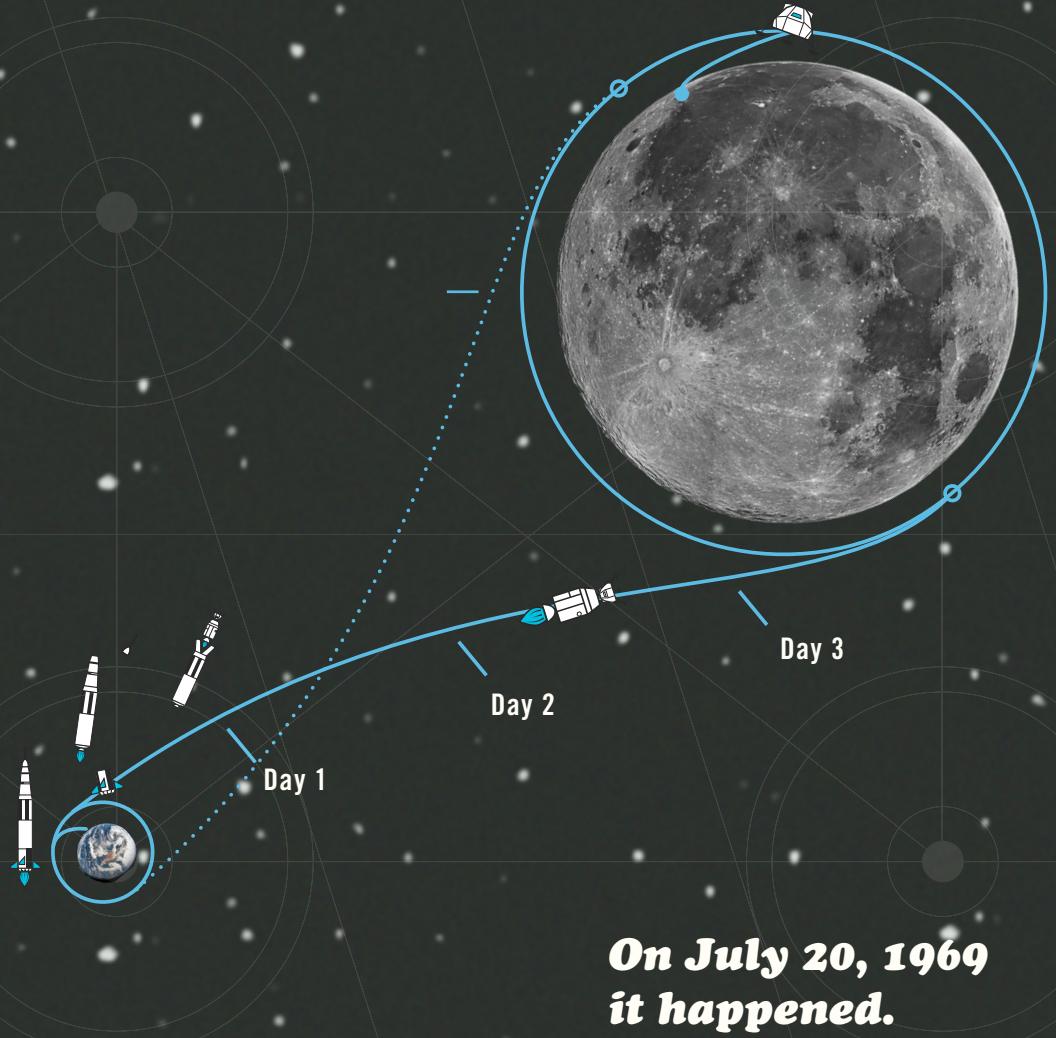
July 16, 1969

9:32am EDT

Apollo 11 clears the tower on its way to the Moon. Onboard are three men: Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins.

It would take three days for Apollo 11 to reach lunar orbit, and for those three days, the Earth would tilt on its axis as it always had. Those three days would not come fast enough.

For those three days, there would be nothing globally significant except the anticipation for something significant.



**On July 20, 1969
it happened.**



A Defining Moment

An estimated 450 million people listened to the live broadcast as Neil Armstrong climbed down onto the Moon's surface.

A piece of history was made on this day, a piece of history that was shared by the people of that world nearly 240,000 miles away. It was a monumental piece of history, but a small one in our cosmic timeline.

Still, there was a feeling of absolute togetherness by the people of the Earth. We were here on our planet, looking upward, listening to the radio, watching the TV, and then in one tiny moment, we went elsewhere.

As humans.

Together.