ONE SMALL STEP…

Do you think one day you’ll put on a spacesuit, get on a space shuttle and go to the Moon? You might! British millionaire Richard Branson has set up an airline that’s going to start tourists flights into space. They won’t be cheap: you’ll need 200.000$! But how did we get to this point?

The first “rockets” were missiles. During the Second World War, Germany launched a rocket that travelled 100km from the surface of the Earth, where space officially begins. After the war, scientists wanted to find out if people could survive in space. First they carried out experiments with insects, and then, in 1949, American scientists sent a monkey successfully into space. In October 1957 Russia launched its first satellite, Sputnik 1. One month later, a dog called Laika became the first animal to orbit the Earth in Sputnik 2.

Both the Americans and the Russians had one goal: the Moon. The first person in space was a Russian cosmonaut called Yuri Gagarin. He orbited the Earth in April 1961 in less than two hours. Then, in 1963, President John F. Kennedy announced that the Americans were going to send a man to the Moon by 1970. They succeeded. On 20th July 1969, Neil Armstrong stepped out of Apollo 11 onto the surface of the Moon, and spoke the famous words: “One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind”.

In 1981 the first space shuttle left Earth. This new type of spacecraft could come back to Earth and be used again, making space exploration cheaper. Unfortunately, however, there was a terrible accident in 1986, when the American space shuttle Challenger exploded only a few seconds after take-off, killing seven astronauts. Scientists learnt important lessons from that accident. In the same year, work began on an International Space Station (ISS) for exploration and research. Astronauts began to live on the ISS in 2000, but it wasn’t finished until 2010

In the 21st century, people have started to consider the possibility of space tourism. It began in April 2001, when Dennis Tito, an American millionaire , paid 20$ million to spend a week in space. He travelled in a Russian spaceship, and visited the ISS. Virgin boss Richard Branson has also created a new airline, Virgin Galactic, which is going to offer a tourist flights into space. What will be next?

**Read the text and answer the questions**

What kind of rockets were used during the Second World War?

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What was the first animal in space?

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Who was the first human in space?

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Who was the first person on the Moon? When?

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What tragedy occurred in the 1980s?

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Who is Dennis Tito, and what did he do?

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**Answer the questions based on your opinion**

What do you think will be the next big development in space exploration?

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How will space travel change in the future?

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Do you think people will be able to have holidays in space in the future? When?

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What will space tourism be like? Where will people be able to go?

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Would you like to go into space? Why?

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**Match the words in the text writing them down right next to their meaning**

Barato (1st paragraph)

Cohete (2nd paragraph)

Lanzado (2nd paragraph)

WHEN ALL EXERCISES ARE DONE YOU MUST WRITE A 200-250 WORDS ESSAY ABOUT A SPACE HOLIDAY. WHERE ARE YOU GOING? WHO ARE YOU GOING WITH? WHAT ARE YOU BRINGING WITH?

Superficie (2nd paragraph)

Exitosamente (2nd paragraph)

Objetivo (3rd paragraph)

Anunció (3rd paragraph)

Transbordador (4th paragraph)

Despegue (4th paragraph)

Ofrecer (5th paragraph)