

STEPS TO THE MOON

"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 Earth"

*President John F. Kennedy,
May 25, 1961*

1957, Sputnik:

First artificial satellite to orbit Earth launched by Soviet Union

1961, Yuri

Gagarin: Soviet cosmonaut becomes first man in space

1957

1960

1962, John Glenn (*below*): Becomes first American to orbit Earth in ***Freedom 7*** Mercury capsule

1964-66, Gemini programme: Nine manned flights used to practice rendezvous and docking procedures necessary for ***Apollo*** missions

Jan 27, 1967: Apollo programme suffers major setback with deaths in capsule fire of ***Virgil Grissom, Edward White*** and ***Roger Chaffee***

1967, Apollo 4: First test flight of Saturn V rocket

1968, Apollo 7: First manned flight in redesigned capsule

1965

Oct 1968-May 1969: NASA launches four manned Apollo flights

1969, Apollo 11: *Neil Armstrong* (*below*) commands first manned mission to land on Moon

1970

1972

1972, Apollo 17: Final Apollo mission. Apollo 18-20 cancelled due to budget constraints. Eleven-year programme cost \$25.4 billion – more than \$160 billion in today's currency