

Space Travel Timeline

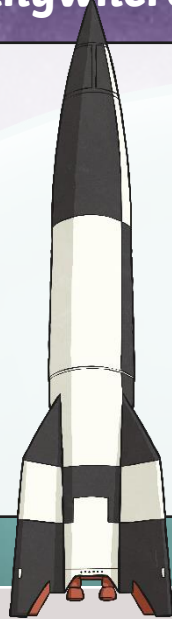
1940 to 2015



Click anywhere to start the timeline.

1942

In 1942, the V2 was the first rocket to reach 100km from the Earth's surface. It was designed by a German engineer called Wernher Von Braun.



1949

The first monkey was sent to space. His name was Albert II and he was a Rhesus monkey. He set off on 14th June in an American rocket and flew 83 miles away from Earth!

1940

1945

1950

1947

The first animals were sent to space. Fruit flies were used to see how they would react to the environment of space. The flies were sent to space with some corn for food.



1957

In November, Laika the Russian space dog became the first animal to orbit the earth. She travelled in a spacecraft called Sputnik 2 and her name means 'barker' in Russian. She was sent to see whether survival by humans in space was possible.

1957

On the 4th October, Russia launched Sputnik, the first satellite into space. 'Sputnik' means 'satellite' in Russian. From this day on, the space age had begun!

1950

1955

1960

1959

Russian and American scientists were in a competition to send a spacecraft to the moon. Russia succeeded first. A space probe called Lunar 2 was sent and it travelled at such an immense speed that it would have killed a person if they were inside it!



1961

Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space. His spacecraft, Vostok 1, completed one orbit of the earth in 2 hours. He had to land by parachute as the craft was designed to crash land.

1963

Russian cosmonaut Valentina Tershkova is the first woman in space and a crater on the far side of the moon is named after her!

1960

1965

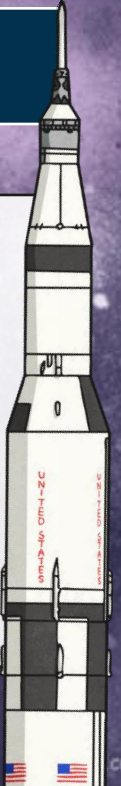
1970

1966

A robot spaceship was sent to the moon on 30th May by NASA to ensure a safe landing. The robot was called Surveyor 1 and it took photographs of the moon's surface and sent them back to excited scientists on Earth. The information was used to figure out if a safe landing was possible.

1969

On the 20th July, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin set foot on the moon! Their spaceship, Apollo 11 flew them 250,000 miles and the first words said on the moon were 'the Eagle has landed'.



1971

From this year on, American astronauts embarked on their fifth and sixth missions and the Lunar Rover was used to travel on it.

Lunar Rover



1970

1975

1980

1973

A Russian probe was sent to explore Mars. It stayed in orbit for a year but it was destroyed when the parachute failed to open upon landing.

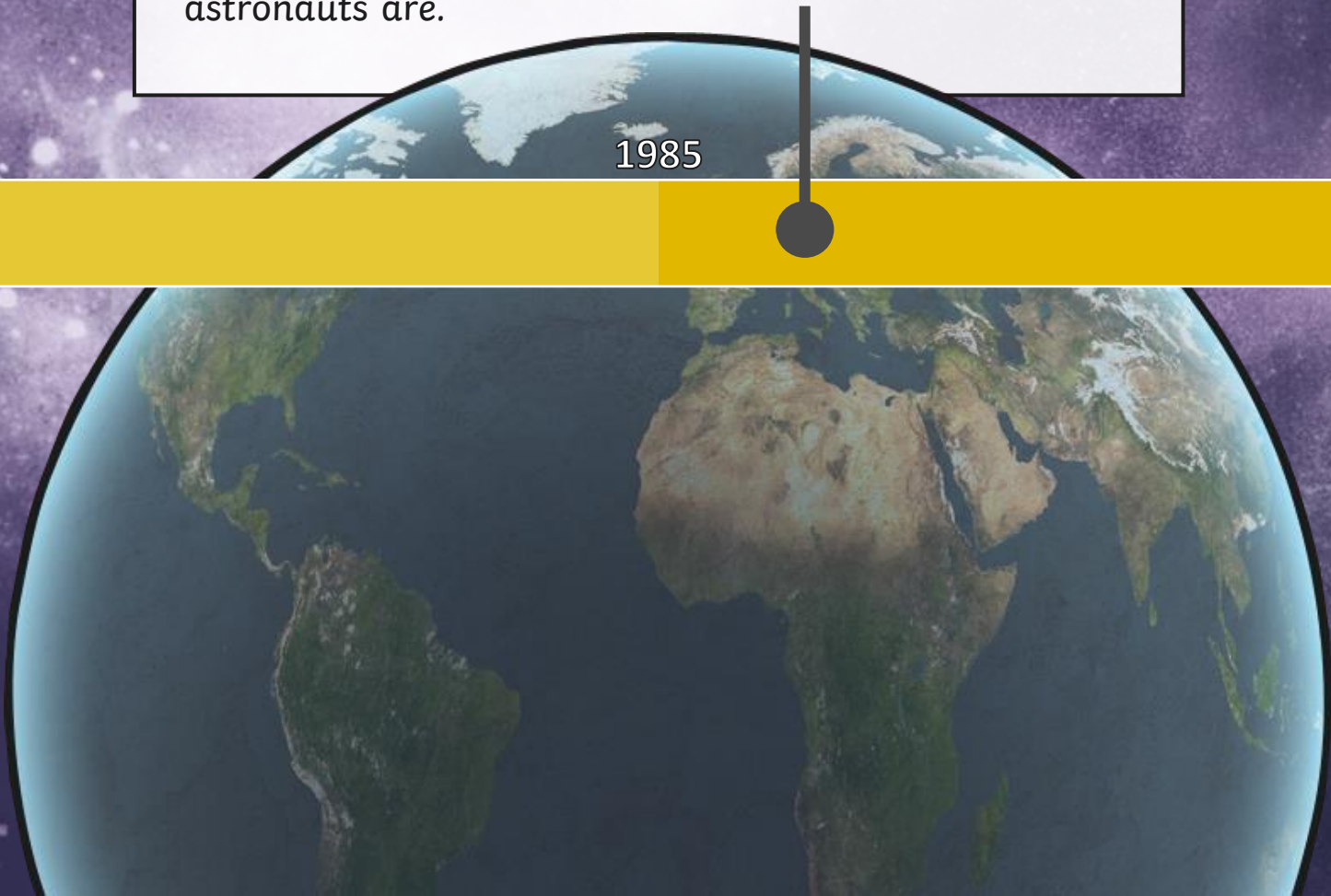
1986

A terrible tragedy occurred as a rocket exploded shortly after it launched, killing seven astronauts. This happened on January 28th and reminded everyone just how dangerous space travel is and how brave astronauts are.

1980

1985

1990



1991

Helen Sharman, born in 1963, Sheffield, won a competition to become the first British astronaut in space. She had to undergo 18 months of intensive training and was part of a mission to the MIR space station.

1990

1995

2000



MIR Space Station

2001

On 28th April, American millionaire Dennis Tito became the first space tourist in a Russian spacecraft. He paid 20 million dollars for the privilege!.

2003

In mid 2003, the 'Nasa Mars Exploration Rover Mission' was launched. This space mission involved two rovers, Spirit and Opportunity. The rovers were given the task of exploring Mars and sending any data back to Earth.

2000

2005

2010

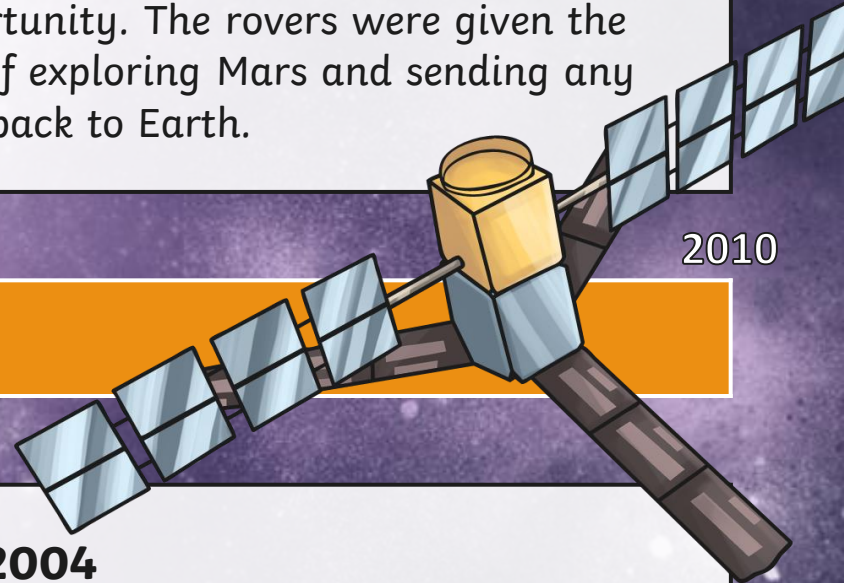
2004

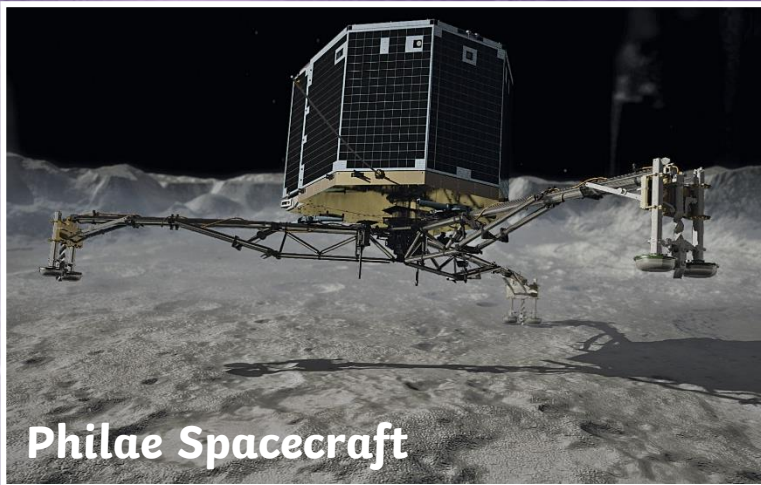
On June 21st, the company SpaceShipOne launched the first ever privately funded flights into space. Tickets for places on the spacecraft are available to buy now.



2004

The Rosetta/Philae mission began 2nd March 2004 and was completed late in 2014. Philae was detached from the Rosetta aircraft where it would land successfully on the surface of a comet and transmit data back to Earth.





Philae Spacecraft

2015

Scientists found evidence of liquid water on Mars for the first time. This furthers the possibility of sustaining life on the planet.

The Rosetta mission achieved its first ever landing of a probe on a comet in deep space.

2010

2015

2020

2015

Tim Peake became the first British ESA Astronaut and the sixth British-born person to visit the International Space Station.



Tim Peake

