

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Racing Beyond Earth

**Directions:** Read the events below about the Space Race between the United States and the Soviet Union. Number each event from **1 (earliest)** to **6 (latest)** to show the correct order. Then, answer the final question explaining why space exploration became such an important part of the Cold War.

1. \_\_\_ The Soviet Union launches **Sputnik 1**, the first artificial satellite to orbit Earth, shocking the world.
2. \_\_\_ The U.S. launches **Explorer 1**, its first successful satellite, beginning America's race to catch up.
3. \_\_\_ Soviet cosmonaut **Yuri Gagarin** becomes the first human to travel into space.
4. \_\_\_ U.S. President **John F. Kennedy** challenges America to land a man on the Moon before the end of the decade.
5. \_\_\_ NASA launches the **Apollo 11** mission, successfully landing astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on the Moon.
6. \_\_\_ The **Space Race cools** as both nations begin to cooperate in space exploration, paving the way for future joint missions.

**Question:** Why did space exploration matter so much during the Cold War?

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