

Racing Beyond Earth Answer Key

Sequence:

1. Sputnik 1 launched (1957)
2. Explorer 1 launched (1958)
3. Yuri Gagarin orbits Earth (1961)
4. Kennedy announces Moon landing goal (1961)
5. Apollo 11 lands on the Moon (1969)
6. Space cooperation begins (1970s onward)

Explanation (sample): Space exploration mattered because it became a symbol of technological power and national pride. Both the U.S. and USSR saw space achievements as proof of their political and scientific superiority. Winning the Space Race showed the world which system—democracy or communism—was more advanced.

Teacher's Guide

Tips for Differentiation:

- **For emerging learners:** Provide pictures of each event and have students arrange them visually.
- **For advanced learners:** Ask students to include one or two additional milestones, such as the formation of NASA or the Apollo-Soyuz mission.
- **For English language learners:** Review the words *satellite*, *orbit*, and *mission* before starting the worksheet.

Extension Ideas:

- Have students research how space technology from the 1960s influences modern life (GPS, satellites, etc.).
- Ask students to imagine a "new Space Race" in the 21st century—what countries and technologies might lead it?
- Connect the Space Race to broader Cold War themes like propaganda, competition, and innovation.