

Starship Gallery Timeline

In Starship Gallery here at Space Center Houston, you will be able to experience a piece of NASA's history. Our Starship Gallery is a one-of-a-kind glimpse into NASA history which houses artifacts, real spacecrafts that have flown in space, and mock-ups that take you on a journey through the history of manned space flight.



Before you visit Space Center Houston's Starship Gallery, you can prepare your students by giving them a brief history of some of the artifacts on display here. Below is a timeline of significant events in the history of manned space flight. Once you have given them this overview, increase their understanding by doing the activity at the end of the lesson with them.

Timeline:

March 16, 1926	First liquid-fueled rocket	Dr. Robert H. Goddard
October 4, 1957	First satellite in space	Russia – Sputnik 1
January 31, 1958	First American satellite in space	Explorer 1 – Van Allen
October 1, 1958	NASA was born	
April 12, 1961	First human in space	Russia – Yuri Gagarin
May 5, 1961	First American man in space	Alan Shepard
February 20, 1962	First American to orbit Earth	John Glenn
May 15-16, 1963	Mercury Faith 7	Gordon Cooper
June 3-7, 1965	Gemini IV	James McDivitt and Ed White
June 3, 1965	First EVA or spacewalk - Gemini IV	Ed White
August 21-29, 1965	Gemini V	Gordon Cooper and Pete Conrad
January 27, 1967	Apollo 1 Astronauts killed in a Fire during a launch test	Gus Grissom, Roger Chaffee, and Ed White
July 20, 1969	First Moon landing- Apollo 11	Neil Armstrong (first man on Moon), Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins (Commander)
December 7-19, 1972	Last mission to Moon- Apollo 17	Gene Cernan (last person to step foot on Moon), Harrison Schmitt and Ronald Evans
May 14, 1973	First space station, Skylab launched	
July 17, 1975	Apollo Soyuz Test Project– marked end of Cold War	Astronaut Tom Stafford and Cosmonaut Alexei Leonov

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Timeline Cont'd:

April 12-14, 1981	First Space Shuttle mission	John Young and Bob Crippen
January 28, 1986	Challenger Astronauts killed During launch of STS-51L	Francis R. "Dick" Scobee, Michael Smith, first "Teacher in Space" Christa McAuliffe, Ellison Onizuka, Judith A. Resnick, Ronald E. McNair, and Gregory B. Jarvis
February 19, 1986 - March 23, 2001	Mir Space Station	Russia
December 4, 1998	First pieces of International Space Station assembled	International collaboration of 15 partner countries
February 1, 2003	Columbia crew lost in an accident during re-entry	Rick D. Husband, William C. McCool, Michael P. Anderson, Ilan Ramon, Kalpana Chawla, David M. Brown, and Laurel Clark
May 31, 2008	Launch of STS-124, carrying Japanese Kibo module	Officially makes ISS the largest space station ever

The following is an list of *some* of the artifacts you can view in Space Center Houston's Starship Gallery:

Mock-up of Goddard Liquid-fueled rocket	Mock-up of Explorer 1
Mercury Faith 7 Capsule	Gemini V Capsule
Apollo 17 "America" Capsule	Skylab trainer
Apollo-Soyuz model	Space Shuttle model

Activity:

1. Research the mission outlined in this timeline and discuss them with your students or have your students research these missions on their own.
2. Have your students research significant events going on in the world at the same time as these missions. This can be done through use of the internet, history books, or interviews with parents or grandparents.
3. Instruct your students to create a timeline using event from their lives, NASA history and world history.
4. You can also use this as a history research project instead and assign each student or group of students a significant mission to research and present to the class.