1957 – 1969

Space Race Quiz

Name _____ Date _____

Fill in the circle beside the best answer.

1. What was Sputnik?

- (A) The first artificial satellite, launched by the Soviet Union in 1957
- (B) The first crewed spacecraft, launched by the Soviet Union in 1961
- (C) The first American satellite, launched by the United States in 1958
- (D) The first space station, launched into orbit by the Soviet Union in 1971

2. Why did the United States create NASA in 1958?

- (A) To answer Sputnik with an agency devoted to the space program
- (B) To build nuclear missiles that could reach the Soviet Union
- (C) To train Air Force pilots for combat missions against Soviet jets
- (D) To run spy planes that photographed Soviet missile bases

3. Who was Yuri Gagarin?

- (A) The Soviet engineer who designed the Sputnik satellite
- (B) The American astronaut who first orbited the Earth in 1962
- (C) The Soviet cosmonaut who made the first spacewalk in 1965
- (D) The Soviet cosmonaut who became the first human in space

4. What did President Kennedy pledge in 1961?

- (A) That the US would put a satellite in orbit before the Soviet Union could launch one
- (B) That the US would build a space station in orbit by the end of the decade
- (C) That the US would land a man on the Moon and bring him back within the decade
- (D) That the US would send astronauts to Mars and back by the end of the century

5. Who was the first American to orbit the Earth?

- (A) Gus Grissom
- (B) John Glenn
- (C) Neil Armstrong
- (D) Alan Shepard

6. What happened during the Apollo 1 fire in 1967?

- (A) Two cosmonauts died in orbit, ending the Soviet Moon program for good
- (B) Three astronauts died in a launch rehearsal, halting crewed flights for over a year
- (C) Three astronauts died when their rocket exploded on the way to the Moon
- (D) An empty rocket burned on the launch pad, delaying Apollo by only a few weeks

7. What was significant about Apollo 8 in December 1968?

- (A) It was the first crewed flight to land on the Moon and plant an American flag there
- (B) It was the first American flight to orbit the Earth and return safely
- (C) It was the first crewed flight to orbit the Moon and took the Earthrise photo
- (D) It was the first flight to dock with a Soviet spacecraft while in orbit

8. Who were the three astronauts on Apollo 11?

- (A) Gus Grissom, Ed White, and Roger Chaffee
- (B) Neil Armstrong, John Glenn, and Michael Collins
- (C) Frank Borman, James Lovell, and William Anders
- (D) Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins

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Space Race Quiz: Answer Key

1. **A** The first artificial satellite, launched by the Soviet Union in 1957

2. **A** To answer Sputnik with an agency devoted to the space program

3. **D** The Soviet cosmonaut who became the first human in space

4. **C** That the US would land a man on the Moon and bring him back within the decade

5. **B** John Glenn

6. **B** Three astronauts died in a launch rehearsal, halting crewed flights for over a year

7. **C** It was the first crewed flight to orbit the Moon and took the Earthrise photo

8. **D** Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins