

DID YOU KNOW?

Fun facts about science...

On April 12, 1961, aboard the spacecraft Vostok 1, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin becomes [the first human being to travel into space](#). During the flight, the 27-year-old test pilot and industrial technician also became the first man to orbit the planet, a feat accomplished by his space capsule in 89 minutes. Vostok 1 orbited Earth at a maximum altitude of 187 miles and was guided entirely by an automatic control system.

Learn more about space exploration at the Kennedy Space Center:

With the Apollo project completed, Kennedy Space Center was preparing to launch a new breed of space craft into low earth orbit, the Shuttle, NASA's reusable Space Transportation System. Since the first launch on April 12, 1981, missions have included:

- Launching satellites into orbit and servicing these satellites
- Conducting scientific experiments while orbiting the Earth
- Helping to build and supply the International Space Station
- Shuttling crew members and supplies to and from the ISS
- Servicing the Hubble Telescope

