



## About NASA

NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) was created in 1958. Its headquarters are in Washington D.C, America. Its vision is to 'reach for new heights and reveal the unknown so that what we do and learn will benefit all humankind'.

About NASA

Unmanned flights

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### Unmanned flights

An unmanned flight has no humans on board, and is usually designed for exploration or communication. NASA has launched more than 1,000 unmanned missions. The first of these was Explorer 1, which was sent into space in January 1958. Explorer 1 orbited the Earth once every 115 minutes, until it was destroyed when it re-entered Earth's atmosphere in March 1970. It went around Earth more than 58,000 times.

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First unmanned mission –  
Explorer 1 – Jan 1958

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**TOL**



## Manned flights

A manned flight is when astronauts are on the spacecraft. To apply to be an astronaut at NASA, you must:

- be an American citizen
- be a pilot who has spent over 1,000 hours flying jets
- have excellent (20/20) vision and be between 1.5 and 1.9 metres tall.

Before any humans were sent into space, NASA sent animals up to see how they would respond. The first animals to be sent into space were fruit flies, in 1947. They were recovered alive. Since then monkeys, dogs, cats, rabbits, frogs, mice, rats, a tortoise and a guinea pig have been sent into space.

In 1961, the American president, John F. Kennedy, gave a famous speech where he challenged NASA to send a man to the moon by the end of the 1960s. Neil Armstrong became the first man to set foot on the moon in July 1969, during a mission called Apollo 11. Since then, only eleven other humans have walked on the moon.

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