

Sprout Seminar, July 13, 2013

Rockets, Cosmonauts, and Laika the Dog: Space Exploration in Russia and the Soviet Union

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Answer Key

Landmarks in Russian/Soviet Space Exploration			
What	Name in Latin script	Name in Cyrillic script	When
Founder of Rocket Science in Russia, 1857-1935	Konstantin Tsiolkovsky (or Tsiolkovskii)	КОНСТАНТИН ЦИОЛКОВСКИЙ	1857-1935
First artificial satellite in Earth's orbit	Sputnik	Спутник	October 4, 1957
First animal in Earth's orbit	Laika	Лайка	November 3, 1957
First human to travel into outer space	Yuri (Iurii, Yury) Gagarin	Юрий Гагарин	April 12, 1961

Soviet and Russian Missions, Spacecraft and Space Stations		
Meaning in English	Name in Latin script	Name in Cyrillic script
"East"	Vostok	Восток
"Ascent"	Voskhod	Восход
"Union"	Soyuz	Союз
"World" or "Peace"	Mir	Мир

Interesting links:

There is a wealth of resources on Soviet and Russian space exploration online. The Wikipedia pages for the relevant topics (Gagarin, Sputnik, Soyuz, etc.) may be a good place to start, particularly for the links to great historical footage and to pages on the NASA website. Besides these, the links below may be of interest as well:

http://faculty.fordham.edu/siddiqi/Asif_Siddiqi/Popular_Articles.html

List of articles written for a general audience by Asif Siddiqi, a History professor and specialist on the Soviet-Russian space programs;

<http://www.nytimes.com/slideshow/2013/06/18/world/europe/20130619-BAIKONUR.html?smid=pl-share>

Recent *New York Times* article on the Baikonur Cosmodrome;

We've all seen footage of the launch of the NASA Space Shuttles, but, for those interested in seeing the takeoff of a Russian rocket, the following two links should be of interest:

<http://youtu.be/6MDupvqYVOY>

<http://youtu.be/Pu54YzWzlc>

Some historical footage of Gagarin and his flight (plus footage of later flights of the Soviet space program) accompanied by cheesy triumphal music:

<http://youtu.be/8r0EiOouSEo>.