



Pre-Classroom Activities

Discover NASA and You: A Timeline Activity

Content Area: Social Studies – History; Language Arts – Comprehension, Sequencing

Grade Level: 4-12

Length: 1 class period, or at the teacher’s discretion

Objectives:

The learner will exercise and expand their knowledge on NASA history by

- Utilizing research skills to collect information on NASA historical figures and events;
- Sequence events in chronological order on a timeline

Materials:

- List of important people and events (1 per student) **
- Research materials, i.e.:
 1. computers with internet access
 2. encyclopedias
- Writing utensils
- Paper
- Blank timeline**

** -- optional

Important People and Events:

Alan Shepard
Apollo 11
Apollo Program
Edward White
Gemini Program
International Space Station
John Glenn
Launch of Explorer I
Launch of Sputnik
Mercury Program
President Kennedy speaks at Rice University
President Kennedy speaks to Congress
Proposed date for NASA’s return to the Moon

Robert Goddard
Space Shuttle Program
Skylab Program
US government establishes the National Aeronautics and Space Administration
US launches “Ham” the chimpanzee
Wernher von Braun
World War II
Yuri Gagarin

NOTE: This activity may be used during the video conference event to enhance the student's learning experience.

Procedure:

1. Provide students with a list of *important people and events*.
2. Allow students time to research each event and person, paying special attention to the date, location, and country represented.
3. Once research is complete, students (either individually or in groups) will organize information in chronological order on a sheet of paper.
4. On a separate sheet of paper, students will construct a timeline that will best organize the information.
5. Complete the timeline by placing the people and events in the correct place.

This lesson may be done as an individual, small group, or large group activity. For more ideas, please refer to "Activity Extension".

Feel free to use the provided timelines below. The filled in timeline is the teacher's version and may be used as a guide for what information may be entered into the blank student version.

Activity Extension:

- Individual Activity: Describe the impact each event or person had on US and/or World history in written annotations for each entry.
- Class Activity: Find images of the important people and events, and create an illustrated timeline

NASA History



