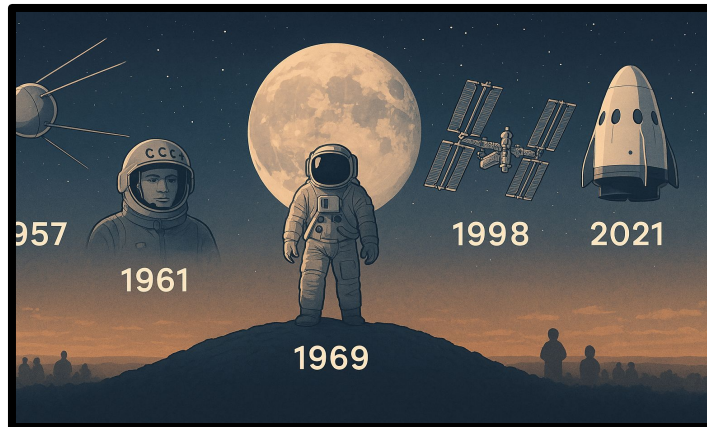


# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Text Structure

Read the short story and answer each question.



## Stepping Into Space

Space exploration is one of the most exciting journeys humans have ever taken—and it all began not too long ago. Scientists and astronauts have made many important steps forward, and each one built on the last. This timeline shows how space travel has changed the world.

### 1957 - The First Satellite

The Soviet Union launched **Sputnik 1**, the first satellite to orbit Earth. It was a small, beeping sphere, but it started a space race between countries.

### 1961 - The First Human in Space

Yuri Gagarin became the first person to travel to space. He orbited Earth in a spacecraft called Vostok 1.

### 1969 - The First Moon Landing

NASA's Apollo 11 mission took three astronauts to the moon. **Neil Armstrong** became the first human to walk on the moon, famously saying, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

### 1998 - The International Space Station (ISS)

Countries from around the world worked together to build the **ISS**, a giant laboratory orbiting Earth. Astronauts from many nations live and work there today.

### 2021 - Private Space Travel

Private companies like SpaceX and Blue Origin launched civilians into space. These missions showed that space travel might one day be open to regular people, not just astronauts.

Each moment in this timeline shows how far space exploration has come—and how much more there is still to discover.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Stepping Into Space

1. How is this passage organized?

- A. It describes the steps of how rockets are built
- B. It compares different planets in the solar system
- C. It uses time order to explain key events in space exploration
- D. It tells the story of one astronaut's journey

2. Which event happened first in space exploration history?

- A. The moon landing
- B. The International Space Station was built
- C. The first person traveled to space
- D. Sputnik 1 was launched

3. Fill in the blank:

In 1969, Neil Armstrong became the first person to walk on the \_\_\_\_\_.

4. How does the author use a time order (chronological) structure to explain space history? Use examples from the passage.

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5. Why is it helpful to organize space exploration milestones in the order they happened?

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# Instructional Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** S

**Lexile Level:** 850L-1000L

**Grade Level:** 4th Grade, End of the Year

**Genre:** Informational Nonfiction – History of Science

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## Introducing the Text

“In this lesson, students will explore the history of space travel using a timeline. As they read, they will pay attention to the *chronological structure*, or how the author organizes events in time order to show progress and discovery.”

**Vocabulary:** satellite, orbit, astronaut, timeline, spacecraft

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you know about space travel?
  2. What’s the most exciting thing you’ve heard about space missions?
  3. How do scientists and astronauts build on past discoveries?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What was Sputnik 1, and why was it important?
  2. Who was the first person to go into space, and what year did it happen?
  3. What’s the purpose of the International Space Station?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does the author use a timeline to show progress?
  2. What event do you think was most important? Why?
  3. Why is using a time order structure helpful for learning history?
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## Activity Idea

Have students create an illustrated timeline of the five events in the passage, using pictures and labels for each year and achievement. Then have them add a sixth “future” event they imagine could happen next in space exploration, and explain why it might be important.

