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UNIT 4

SPACE EXPLORATION



Teaching objectives:

■ By the end of this period, you will be able to...

1. **learn** about the development and significant historical events of space exploration.
2. **analyze** the structure of the article and summarize the main idea of the text.
3. **express** your opinions on space exploration.





An astronaut in a white NASA spacesuit is shown from the waist up, floating in space. The astronaut's helmet is white with a dark visor. A NASA logo is visible on the chest. The background shows the Earth's horizon and the blackness of space with some stars.

What do you think are the main reasons for space exploration?

“Space, the final frontier. These are the

**to explore strange new worlds,
to seek out new life forms and civilisations,
to boldly (勇敢地) go where no man has
gone before.”**

——James Kirk

Star Trek星际迷航

Pre-reading:

What do you expect to read about in this text?

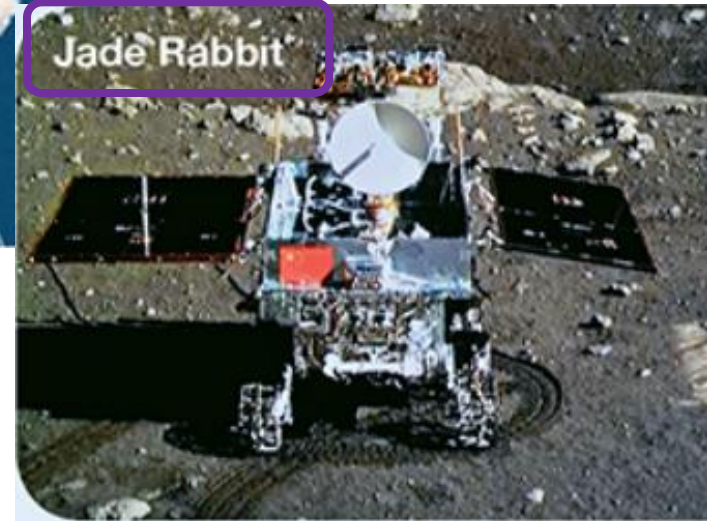
SPACE: THE FINAL FRONTIER

"Are we alone? What's out there?" Looking up at the stars, people have always wanted to learn more about space and answers. They make

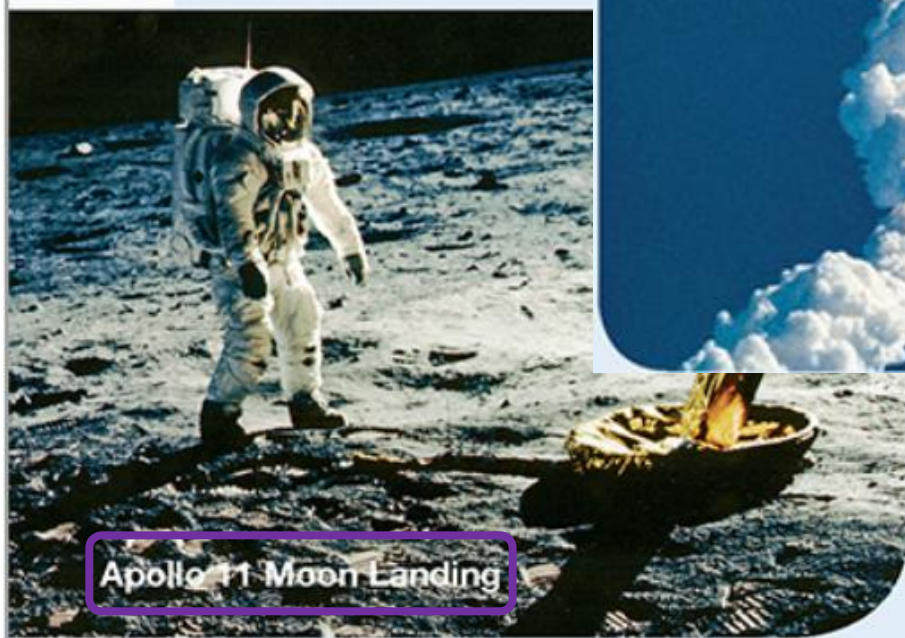
Challenger after the accident



Jade Rabbit



Apollo 11 Moon Landing



While-reading:

Choose the correct sentence A-D to fill each gap in groups.

A. Although scientists try to make sure nothing goes wrong, accidents can still happen.

B. They **also** really wish to discover other planets that are suitable enough to support life.

C. The future of space exploration remains bright.

D. **After** many experiments, they succeeded in making rockets that could escape Earth's gravity.

SPACE: THE FINAL FRONTIER

Para1

"Are we alone? What's out there?" Looking up at the stars, people have always wanted to learn more about space, and scientists work hard to find answers. They make **vehicles** to carry brave people into space to find out the secrets of the **universe**.

Para2

Before the mid-20th century, most people felt travelling into space was an impossible dream. However, some scientists were determined to help humans realise their dream to explore space.

On 4 October 1957, the Sputnik 1 **satellite** was **launched** by the USSR and successfully **orbited** around Earth. Afterwards, the USSR focused on sending people into space, and on 12 April



11 Moon Landing

1961, Yuri Gagarin became the first person in the world to go into space. Over eight years later, on 20 July 1969, American astronaut Neil Armstrong stepped onto the moon, famously saying, "That's one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for **mankind**." Following this, many more goals were achieved. For example, America's NASA space **agency** launched Voyager 1 on 5 September 1977 to study deep space, and it still transmits **data** today.

Para3

Two shuttle disasters on the USSR's Soyuz 11 and America's Challenger died during their missions.

These disasters made everyone sad and **disappointed**, but the **desire** to explore the universe never died. This is because people believe in the importance of carrying on space exploration despite the huge risks. An example of this ongoing work is the International Space Station. It orbits Earth and has astronauts from different countries on board, providing a continuous human presence in space.

Para4

China's space programme started later than those of Russia and the US, but it has made great progress in a short time. China became the third country in the world to independently send humans into space in 2003, when Yang Liwei successfully orbited Earth in the Shenzhou 5 spacecraft. Then Shenzhou 6 and 7 completed a second manned orbit and the first Chinese spacewalk, followed by the vehicle Jade Rabbit being sent to the moon to study its surface. After that, China launched the Tiangong 2 space lab into space and Tianzhou 1 to dock with it. This **signalled** one step further in China's plan to establish a space station in the future. More recently, China has sent Chang'e 4 to explore the surface of the far side of the moon to make measurements and observations.

Challenger after the accident



Jade Rabbit



Para5

Europe, the US, and China all have plans to further study and explore planets like Mars and Jupiter. Despite the difficulties, scientists hope future discoveries will not only enable us to understand how the universe began, but also help us survive well into the future.

topic sentence/
main idea for each
paragraph:

Para 1: _____

Para 2: _____

Para 3: _____

Para 4: _____

Para 5: _____

Main idea: People are always curious about space and scientists work hard to find answers.

Para1

“Are we alone? What’s out there?” Looking up at the stars, people have always wanted to learn more about space, and scientists work hard to find answers. They make vehicles to carry brave people into space to find out the secrets of the universe. They also really wish to discover other planets that are suitable enough to support life.



Main idea: People's dream of space exploration came true in the 20th century.

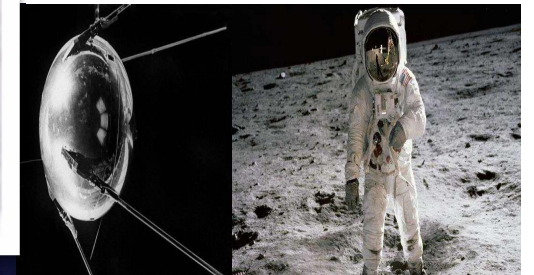
Para2

Before
impossible
realise the
Sputnik 1
Earth. After
April 1961
Over eight
stepped on
one giant
For exam
September

Summarise the main idea

When the main idea is not clearly stated in a topic sentence, you should read the full paragraph or passage carefully and find the words or ideas that repeat themselves. They are likely evidence of the author's main idea.

to space was an
to help humans
October 1957, the
orbited around
pace, and on 12
to go into space.
Neil Armstrong
step for [a] man,
were achieved.
Voyager 1 on 5
today.



Main idea: Despite the huge risks, humans still desire to explore space.

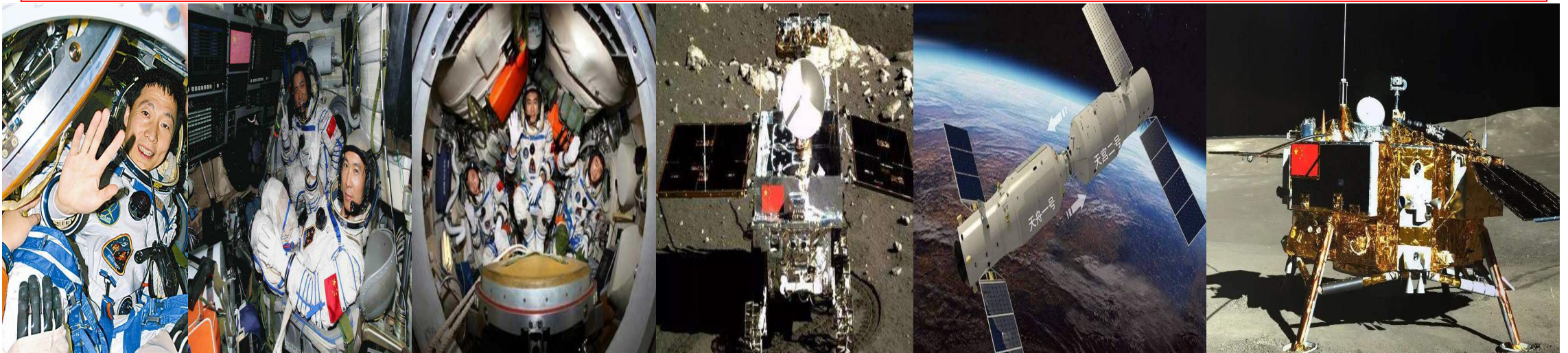
Para3

Although scientists try to make sure nothing goes wrong, accidents can still happen. All the astronauts on the USSR's Soyuz 11 and America's Challenger died during their missions. These disasters made everyone sad and disappointed, but the desire to explore the universe never died. This is because people believe in the importance of carrying on space exploration despite the huge risks. An example of this ongoing work is the International Space Station. It orbits Earth and has astronauts from different countries on board, providing a continuous human presence in space.



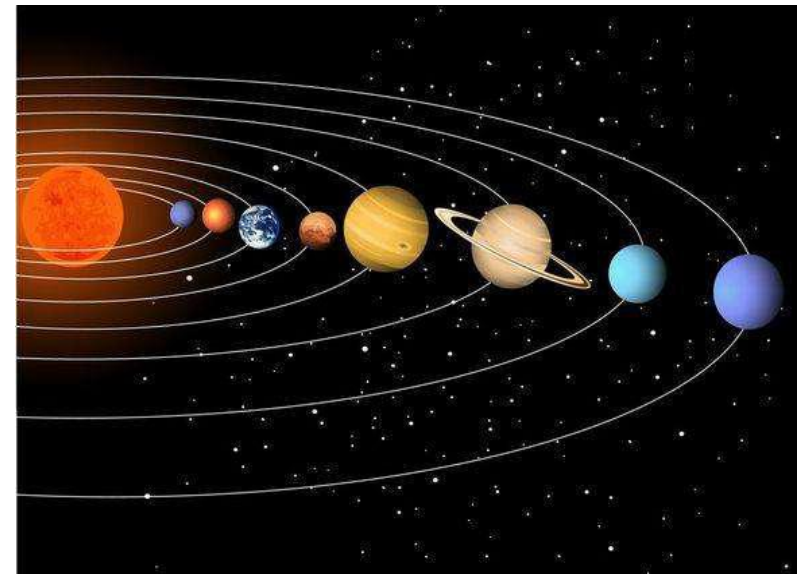
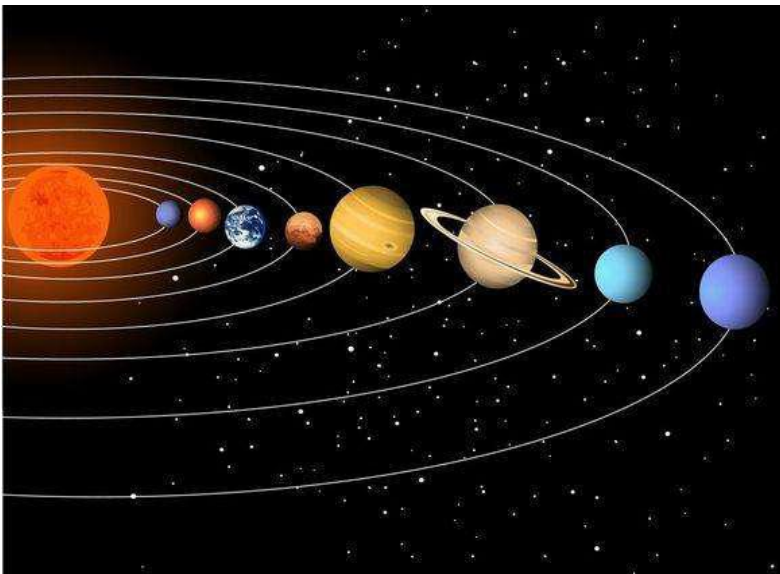
Para4

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Para5

The future of space exploration remains bright. Europe, the US, and China all have plans to further study and explore planets like Mars and Jupiter. Despite the difficulties, scientists hope future discoveries will not only enable us to understand how the universe began, but also help us survive well into the future.



While-reading: Read para 2 and 4 to find out the main events home and abroad.

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foreign countries

- **1957** **The Sputnik 1** satellite was launched
- **1961** **Yuri Gagarin** went into space
- **1969** **Neil Armstrong** stepped onto the moon.
- **1977** **Voyager 1** was launched

Why was space exploration mainly carried out by the USSR and the US in the 20th century?

Para4



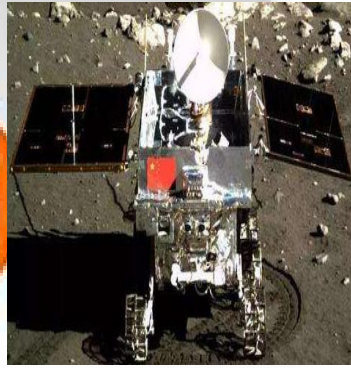
Shenzhou 5

Independently sent humans into space



Shenzhou 6&7

Completed a second manned orbit and the first Chinese spacewalk



Jade Rabbit

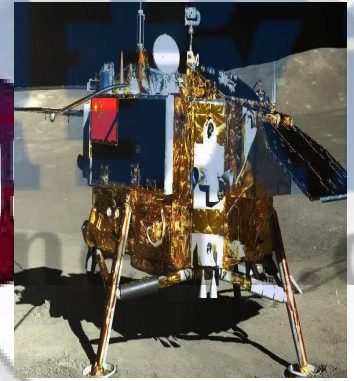
Studied the surface of the moon



Tiangong 2

Tianzhou 1

Furthered the establishment of a space station.



Chang'e 4

Explored the surface of the far side of the moon.

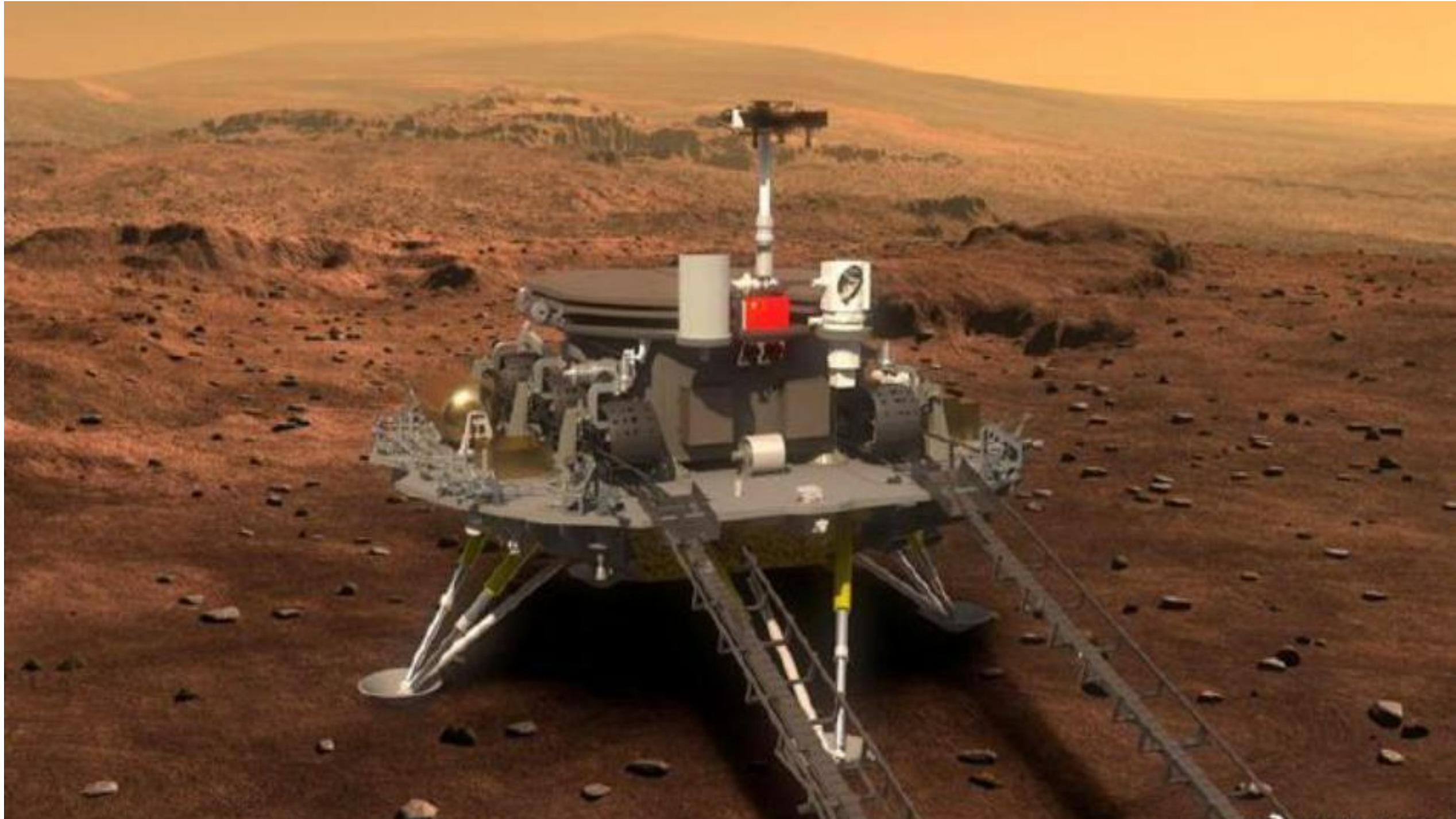
2003

then
(2005&2008)

followed
by
(2013)

after that
(2016&2017)

more
recently
(2018)



**Were the space missions always successful ?
If not, what might happen to space missions ?**





NGFans

4、3、2、1

An example of this ongoing work is **the International Space Station**. It orbits Earth and has astronauts from different countries on board, providing a continuous human presence in space. **cooperation** →

The **future** of space exploration remains **bright**.

4 Oct. 1957

12 Apr 1961

20 July 1969

5 Sep. 1977

Sputnik 1

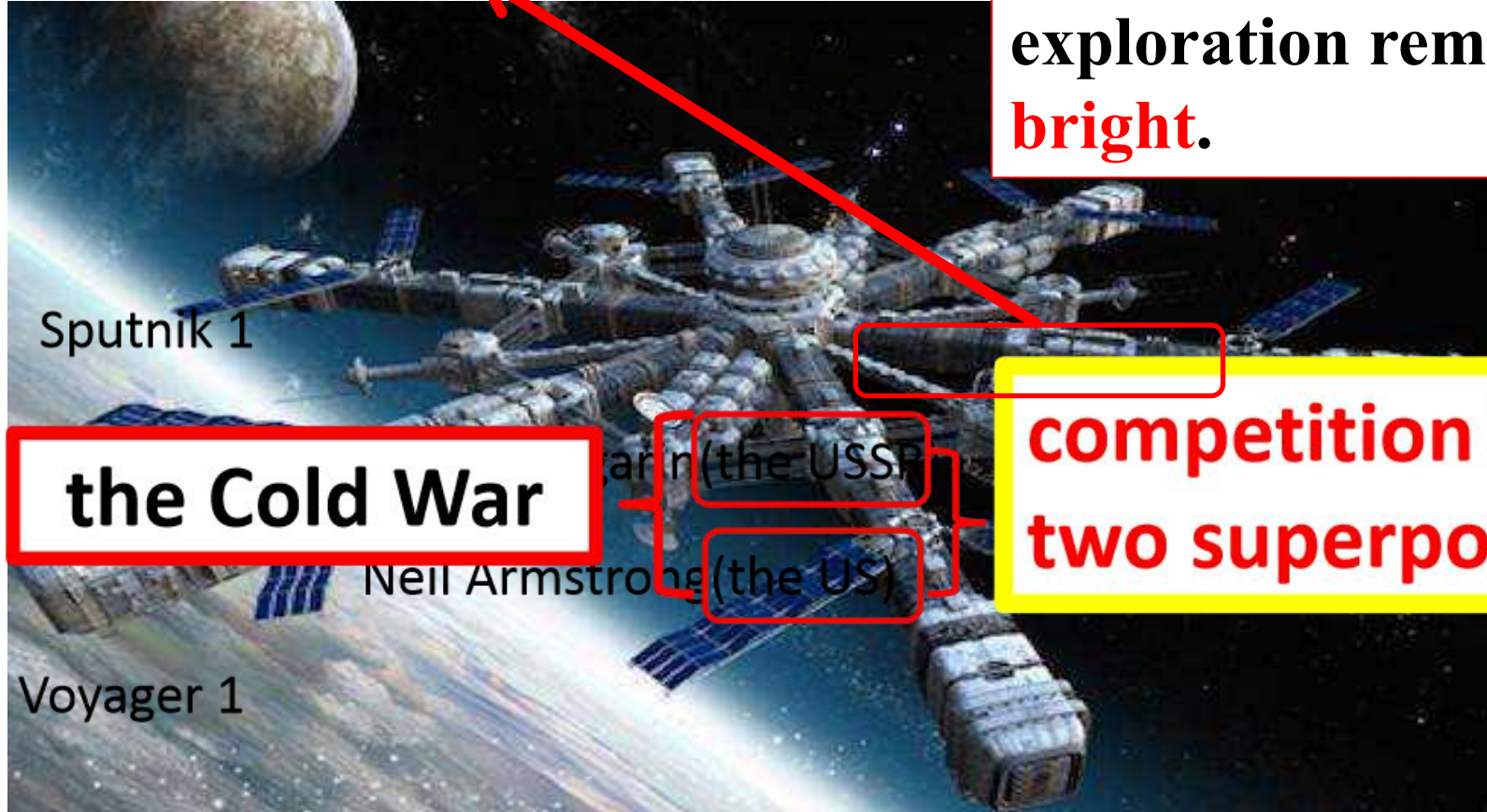
the Cold War

Gagarin (the USSR)

Neil Armstrong (the US)

Voyager 1

competition between two superpowers



Para5

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Further thinking : What does the title mean to you?

SPACE: THE FINAL FRONTIER

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1969 Apollo 11 Moon Landing

All the astronauts on the USSR’s Soyuz 11 and America’s Challenger died during their missions.



为什么这么激动呢?

What do you think are the main reasons for space exploration?

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SPACE SPIRIT



Thank you!