

Guided Notes

Lesson Title: Rivals in Orbit: How the Space Race Began and Ended in Cooperation

Essential Question:

How did Cold War competition between the United States and the Soviet Union transform from rivalry into cooperation through the Space Race?

Key Vocabulary — Space Race Word Bank

Use these words as you watch the videos and complete your notes.

Cold War | tension | satellite | orbit | NASA | astronaut |
cosmonaut | EVA (spacewalk) | docking | Saturn V | morale | cooperation

Part 1 — The Early Days: From Cold War Rivalry to the Space Race

(History in a Nutshell — The Space Race Part 1)

A. Big Ideas

- The Cold War was a time of _____ between the _____ and the _____.
- Each side wanted to show its ideas were best winning in _____ and _____.

B. Key Events

Event/Term	What happened?	Why it mattered
Sputnik (1957)		
Explorer 1 (1958)		
NASA created (1958) (civilian agency)		
Mercury Seven (1959)		
Yuri Gagarin (1961)		
Alan Shepard (1961)		

Event/Term	What happened?	Why it mattered
JFK Moon goal (1961)		
John Glenn orbits (1962)		

C. Cause → Effect Chains

- a. Because of _____, the United States decided to _____.
- b. Because of _____, the Soviet Union / United States felt _____.

D. Quick Sketch

Part 2 — Project Mercury, Gemini and Apollo: From Competition to Cooperation

(History in a Nutshell — The Space Race Part 2)

A. Gemini — Can People Work in Space? (EVA = Spacewalk)

List the three skills Gemini tested:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

What problem made spacewalks difficult?

How did astronauts fix it?

B. Safety & Setbacks

- What was “go fever”?

- What changed after Apollo 1?

C. Turning Points

Event/Term	What happened?	Why it mattered
Apollo 8 (1968)		
Apollo 11 (1969)		
Apollo-Soyuz (1975)		

D. From Rivalry to Cooperation

Explain how the Space Race started with competition and ended with cooperation. Use one example from the videos.

Source Check

List two sources (video part, transcript line, or perspective card) and what each showed.

1. Source: _____ → Showed: _____
2. Source: _____ → Showed: _____

Exit Ticket

Which event most changed U.S. goals in space? Why? (2-3 sentences)
