

Perspective Cards

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

U.S. Newspaper Headline (1957) — U.S. "Soviets Launch 'Sputnik' into Orbit; Americans Can Hear the Beeps. Defense questions arise as the nation reacts with surprise."  Tags: Political Social  Think About It: What feelings might U.S. readers have? Why?	Parent Watching TV (1969) — U.S. "We huddled by the black-and-white set and held our breath as the first bot touched the Moon. I felt proud and a little amazed that people could do this."  Tags: Social  Think About It: How does this show the Moon landing affected everyday people?
Soviet Radio Brief (1961) — Soviet "Pilot Yuri Gagarin completed one orbit of Earth and safely returned. This proves our nation's scientific strength and inspires our people."  Tags: Political Social  Think About It: What values does this message highlight?	JFK to Congress (1961) — U.S. "This nation should commit itself to landing a man on the Moon before this decade is out."  Tags: Political Economic  Think About It: Why set a deadline? What effect could that have?

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Astronaut Training Note (1966) — U.S. "Working underwater helps us practice spacewalks. With handhelds and footholds, tasks are safer and faster."  Tags: Scientific/Technical  Think About It: What problem is being solved? How?	Engineer After Apollo 1 (1967) — U.S. "We slowed down and redesigned systems for safety. We learned painful lessons about rushing."  Tags: Safety Process  Think About It: How can tragedy change policy?
Classroom Bulletin (1968) — Shared "The 'Earthrise' photo shows our planet floating in darkness. It reminds us we all share one home."  Tags: Social Environmental  Think About It: How might this image change people's feelings about Earth?	Budget Committee Note (1970) — U.S. "Interest is lower now that the Moon goal was reached. We must make careful choices about future costs."  Tags: Economic Political  Think About It: Why might spending change after a big goal is met?

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Apollo-Soyuz Joint Statement (1975) "Today, we met in orbit and cooperated in space. We hope this is a step toward safer missions for all."  Tags: Political Cooperation  Think About It: What does this say about rivals working together?	Soviet Factory Worker (1961) — Shared "We cheered when we heard Gagarin on the radio. It felt like our hard work and learning mattered to the world."  Tags: Social  Think About It: What emotions are expressed, and why?
U.S. Student Letter to NASA (1962) — U.S. "Dear NASA, I want to be an astronaut after seeing John Glenn. Please keep going so kids like me can explore."  Tags: Social Educational  Think About It: What small economic effects can big events have?	Local Business Owner (1969) — U.S. "Tourists bought Moon-landing souvenirs all week. Space news brought more people into town."  Tags: Economic  Think About It: What small economic effects can big events have?