

NOTHING BUT TALK

MOONSHOT



Moonshot is a presentation that had its debut in January 2018 and was received very positively by students of all disciplines. Since then it has been consistently one of the top three requested presentations.

In 1969, the first lunar landing transfixed the entire world. Previously the idea of landing on the moon had been regarded as simply science fiction. But in a short period of just eight years humanity had taken huge strides in technology which enabled the seemingly impossible to become reality. The events that took place on 20 and 21 July 1969 are regularly described as the greatest technological and human achievement of our time.

The Space Race

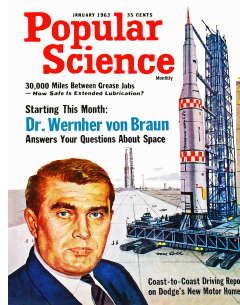
At 8.07 pm on Friday 4 October 1957 the RCA communications station on Long Island, New York began receiving strange signals from outer space. The signals were coming from an unidentified moving object that was circling the earth every 90 minutes and travelling at a speed of 29,000 kph. And continued to do so for the following three weeks. When news broke that the object was a Russian satellite named Sputnik, the whole of the USA went into shock; the Russians were in space and the Americans were not. This was considered as a shift in power to the Russians in the ever intensifying Cold War. Exactly a year later the US created NASA and the space race was on, a race that the Russians would dominate until 1967. Then the miracle happened.



Key personalities in the story



‘We choose to go to the Moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard.’
J F Kennedy makes his famous speech at Rice University, Houston, Texas on 12 September 1962. Many thought he was crazy.



Dr Wernher von Braun, chief engineer on the project that designed the V2 rocket in Nazi Germany was also the chief NASA designer of the Saturn V rocket that took the first humans to the moon.



When the Apollo program was launched, it wasn't known which mission would land astronauts on the moon. When Apollo 11 proved to be the answer, the next question was how to decide who would be the first person to walk on the moon.