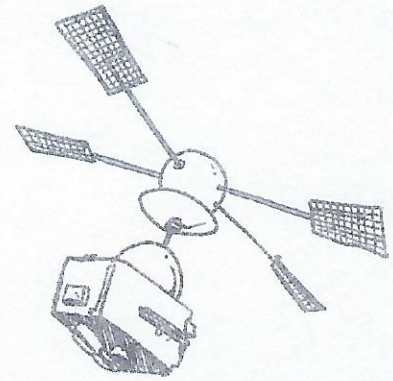


# SPUTNIK I

Day 3



On October 4, 1957, the Russians sent into space a man-made satellite named *Sputnik I*. This marked the beginning of the space age.

*Sputnik I* was the first man-made satellite. A satellite is an object that travels around the earth. It can send radio and television signals, watch weather conditions, and explore space.

The word *sputnik* is a Russian word that means "traveler." Travel is exactly what *Sputnik* did. It circled the earth about once every 95 minutes and traveled at a speed of 18,000 miles per hour.

The space age marked the beginning of a race between the United States and Russia. The race was to see which country would develop its space program faster. It was also a race to see which country would be the first to put a man on the moon.

In 1957, the Russians appeared to have a wide lead. They put *Sputnik I* into orbit. A month later, the Russians put the first living creature into space. It was a female dog named Laika.

The race between the two countries made the American people take a good look at their educational system. Many people felt American schools were too easy. They felt the schools didn't train enough scientists and engineers to beat the Russians in the space race. It was because of the Russians' lead in the space race that more money was given to education.

October 4, 1957, really changed the way Americans looked at themselves.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## SPUTNIK I

Write each sentence so that it is correct.

1. On October 4, 1957, the Americans sent a satellite into space.  
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\_\_\_\_\_
2. *Sputnik I* became the second man-made satellite.  
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\_\_\_\_\_
3. The word *sputnik* is a Spanish word meaning "traveler."  
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\_\_\_\_\_
4. *Sputnik* circled the moon about once every 95 minutes.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. The space age marked the beginning of a race between Canada and Russia.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. The Russians put the first living creature into space — a female cat.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. The first animal in space was named Maika.  
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\_\_\_\_\_
8. Many people felt American schools were too hard.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. September 4, 1957, really changed the way Americans looked at themselves.  
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\_\_\_\_\_

**Research:** Read about *Neil Armstrong* in an encyclopedia. Why is he famous?