



SPACE VOCABULARY

APOLLO: U.S. Space Program which included six piloted lunar landings between 1969-1972.



» **ASTRONAUT:** Person who engages in or trains for space flight.

ASTRONOMY: Study of objects beyond Earth's atmosphere.

ATMOSPHERE: A mixture of gases that surround a planet. Earth's atmosphere contains 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen, and 1% other gases such as argon, carbon dioxide and water vapor.

» **GEMINI 3:** Space capsule launched on March 23, 1965, manned by astronauts Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom and John Young. The capsule was nicknamed "Molly Brown" by Grissom after a popular Broadway musical.



GRAVITY: The force which pulls toward the center of the Earth.

MERCURY-ATLAS 7: American-manned space mission launched May 24, 1962. The Mercury spacecraft was named Aurora 7 and made three Earth orbits, piloted by astronaut Scott Carpenter.

MICROGRAVITY: A condition, especially in space orbit, where the force of gravity is so weak that weightlessness results.

NASA: National Aeronautics and Space Administration; a U.S. federal agency.

ORBIT: The curved path, usually elliptical, described by a planet, satellite, spaceship, etc., around a celestial body, such as the sun.

ROCKET: A space capsule or vehicle put into orbit.



» **SATELLITE:** An object, man-made or natural, which orbits a planet.

SOLAR SYSTEM: The sun and the group of celestial bodies that are held by its attraction and revolve around it.

SPACE CAPSULE: A vehicle or compartment of a vehicle designed to transport, protect and support humans or animals in outer space or at very high altitudes in and beyond the Earth's atmosphere.

SPACE RACE: The competitive nature of nations involved in space exploration.



