

# SPACE EXPLORATION – PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

**Objective:** Participants will use technology as they explore U.S. space exploration events. This activity includes significant U.S. accomplishments from the past, present, as well as events projected for the future.

## **Teacher Preparation:**

1. Download all documents at the following link  
<https://challengerscobe.org/challenger-center-activity-poster/>
2. Students will use QR codes and Aurasma from the event cards to find additional pictures, videos, and information.
3. Display the event cards around the classroom in order or out of order.
4. Provide technology or allow students' to use their own personal devices, to discover interactive resources on the timeline using a QR code app and Aurasma. Assign the time you have allotted for interaction.
5. As students travel around the room to learn about significant events in space exploration they will complete their timeline facts on the provided downloadable template.

## **Classroom Activity:**

**Engage Students:** Explain to students that today they will explore significant events in space exploration. Past events are important as they pave the way for the future. Today is not a history lesson, but what is innovatively happening currently in space exploration, as well as what is projected for the future. Students in your classroom may someday soon be participating in future space exploration events. Have students watch the NASA video *We are the Explorers*. <https://youtu.be/e7DEw70LVWs>

**Explore:** Allow students to move around the room as they investigate the events in small groups or individually at their own pace using the QR codes and Aurasma apps. Students can use the provided timeline document to complete the timeline activity and questions.

**Explain:** Discuss with students the events that they thought were most significant and why. Why was it important that certain events occurred in their chronological order?

## **Extend/Elaborate:**

- Write a letter to NASA about the significance of certain events in history and how they have affected culture in American space exploration today. Predict where space exploration will go in the future? What should NASA do next?
- Create a video montage of major events or skits as they role-play these important events in space history.
- Create a poster or a comic strip of major events
- Interview individuals about who remember the Apollo 11 landing on the moon. What was the mood of America towards space exploration at the time of the moon landing?

**Evaluate:** Have the students arrange the event cards in chronological order from the earliest event to the most recent event in space exploration.