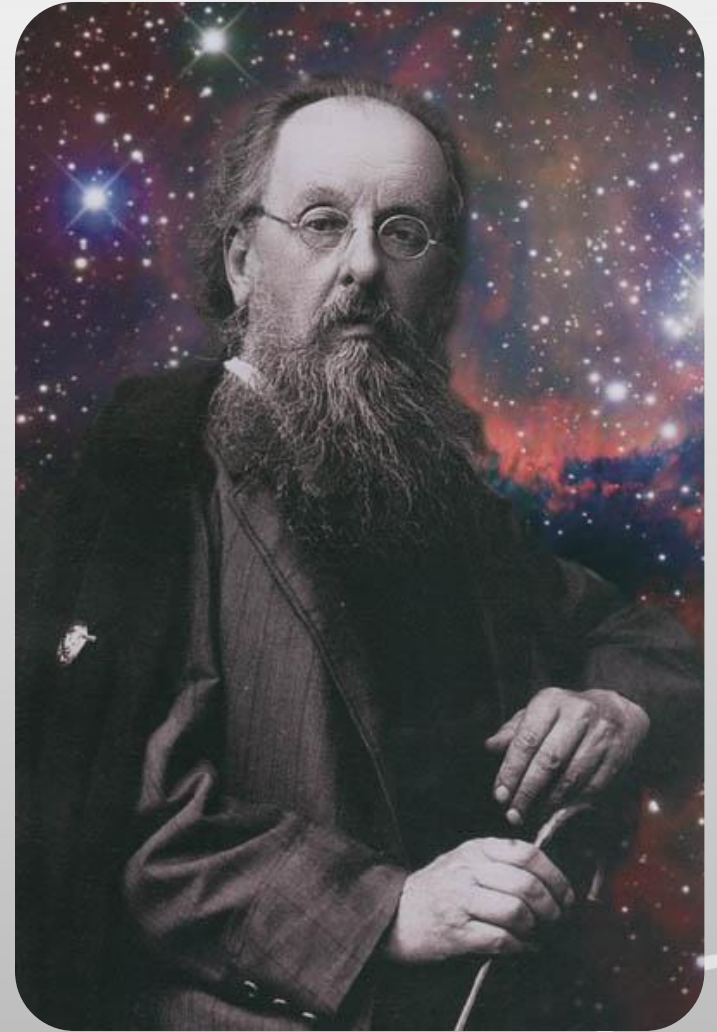




**Space**

People have always dreamt of travelling in space and reaching other planets. At the beginning of the 20th century a famous Russian scientist Tsiolkovsky said that mankind will not live on planet Earth forever. His predictions came true half a century later, when the first artificial satellite was launched



K. Tsiolkovsky

**It was on October 4, 1957. The satellite was called Sputnik-1. However, the most important event in space exploration took place in on April 12, 1961, when spaceship “Vostok” with a man on board was launched into space. This first man who overcame gravitation was Yuri Gagarin. After successful orbiting, he returned to the Earth.**



**This flight encouraged many other Russian cosmonauts to explore the outer space. Among them, Titov, Nikolaev, Tereshkova, Leonov, Savitskaya and others. Today the 12th of April is celebrated by Russian people every year as the Cosmonautics Day in commemoration of the first space flight.**



**V. Tereshkova**



**Another important event is space exploration took place on July 20, 1969. It was the day when the American astronaut Neil Armstrong landed on the Moon. In 1986 Russian space station “Mir” was launched.**



**Today, Russia wants the space exploration to be based on broad international cooperation. Many international crews went up as well. Space exploration is quickly progressing and it seems that soon we'll be visiting other planets and even living on them. The 21st century may be the turning point. Next step is the first moonbase with scientists living in it. Other than that, people are planning to land on the nearest planet Mars soon to explore its surface.**

**Valentina Tereshkova - the only woman in the world who performed space flight alone, as well as the first woman in space. Her space flight, she committed June 16, 1963, making 48 revolutions around the earth, her flight lasted three days**



**Valentina Tereshkova**

