

YURI GAGARIN

The First Space man



Written and Illustrated by

Vix Southgate

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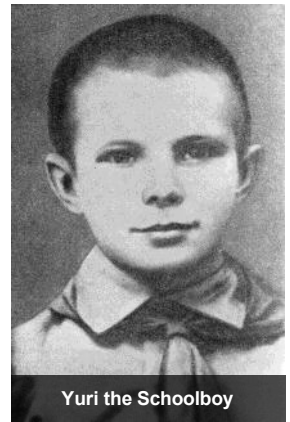
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Yuri's Story

Yuri Alexeyevich Gagarin was born on 9th March 1934 in a village called Klushino, near Gzhatsk in the Soviet Union (*now known as Russia*). He had two brothers, Valentin and Boris and a sister, Zoya.


Their father, Alexei, was a carpenter and worked on a farm maintaining the buildings and hoped, one day, to pass his woodworking skills on to his sons. Their mother, Anna, who was born in St Petersburg, worked on the farm as a dairymaid.

Yuri attended the local school, but when the German Army invaded in 1941 all the schools were closed. He did not have any education for two years. When he was seven years old his village was captured and the Gagarins' house was taken over by the German soldiers. This meant that they had to dig themselves a shelter to live in. It was nothing more than a mud hut in their garden.



The Germans were driven out of the nearby town of Gzhatsk on 9th April 1943 and soon after, Klushino was also liberated.

The family salvaged what was left of their home and rebuilt it in Gzhatsk. In early 1943 the Germans had taken Yuri's eldest brother, Valentin, and his sister, Zoya, to work in labour camps in Poland and even though they escaped, they did not return home until after the war in 1945. For over a year they were drafted into the Soviet Army, Valentin was sent to fight on the front-line, and Zoya, aged only 15, was put to work with the cavalry horses.



Yuri, (seated) with (left-right) Valentin, Boris and Zoya

Fact
Gzhatsk was renamed Gagarin in 1968.

Fact
In 1934 Russia was part of the Soviet Union and was a Communist state, led by Joseph Stalin.

The countdown begins.

A 27 year old Soviet pilot called Yuri Gagarin is in the Vostok-1 spacecraft on the Baikonur launch pad.



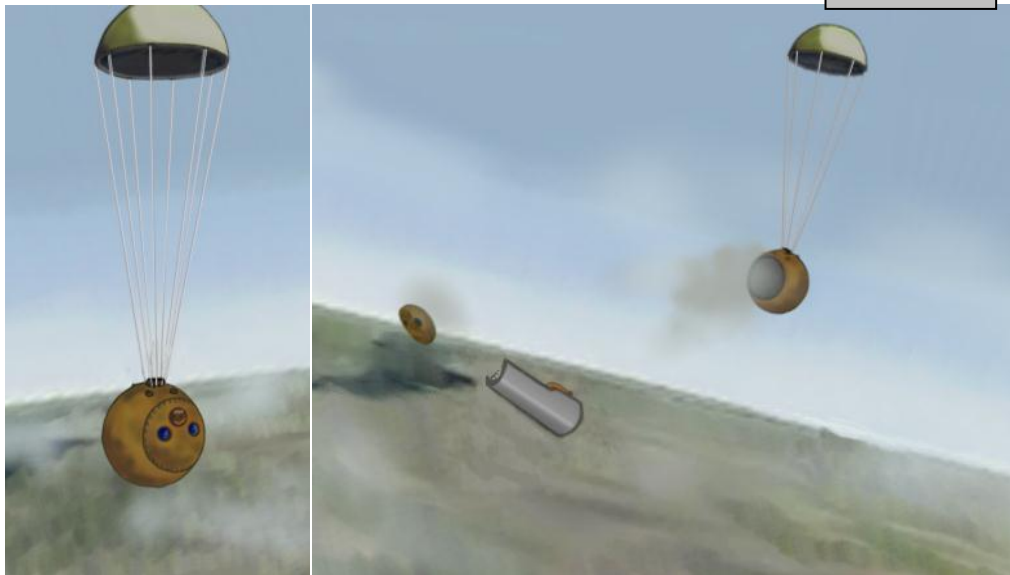
The Vostok-1 rocket is launched into space.

Fact

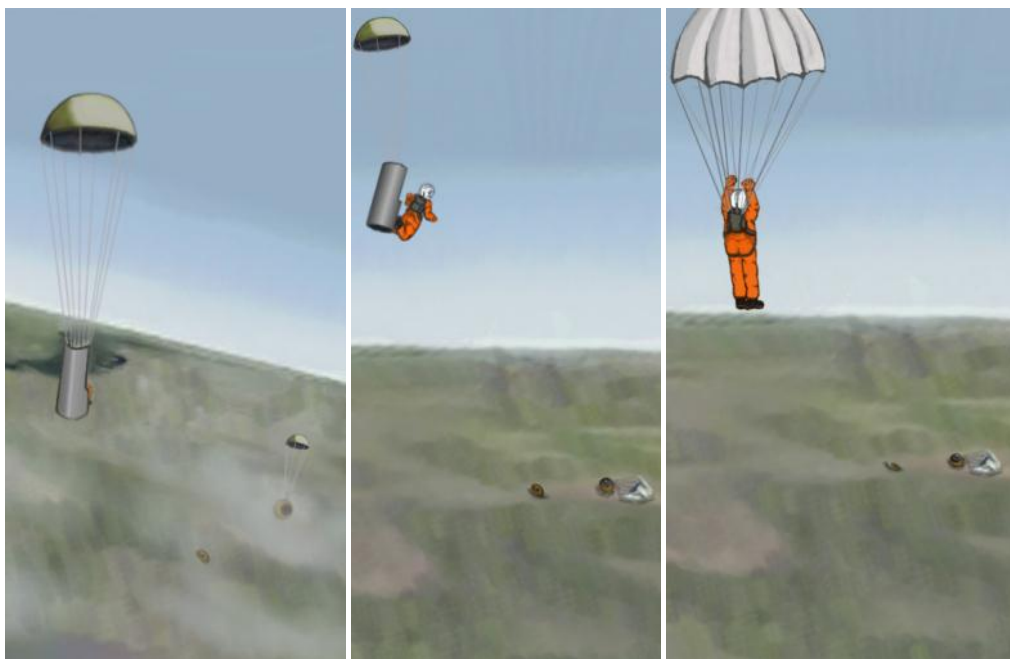
Zarya was the code name for the launch site and Kedr (Cedar) was Yuri Gagarin's name during the mission.

Vostok-1 is 7km from the ground. Vostok-1's main parachute is deployed. Yuri's hatch is released and he ejects.

07:55



The Vostok capsule lands. Yuri jumps from the ejector seat and deploys his parachute.



Yuri facts

- * Yuri's full name was: Yuri Alexeyevich Gagarin.
- * Gagarin was 1.57 metres (5ft 2in) tall.
- * When he was a boy, Yuri read books by Jules Verne.
- * Yuri wanted to be a gymnast.
- * Yuri only flew in one space mission, Vostok-1.
- * Yuri was a keen ice hockey player.
- * He was also a basketball fan, and coached the Saratov Industrial Technical School team, as well as being an umpire/referee.
- * He was eventually offered a place at a physical training technical school to pursue his gymnastic ambitions but chose to continue as a foundryman in Saratov.
- * A crater on the far side of our moon is named after him.
- * Virgin trains have named one of their Super Voyager diesel-electric railcars after him.
- * Yuri's ashes are buried in the Kremlin Wall.

Flight Card

Comonaut:	Yuri Alexeyevich Gagarin	Date:	12th April 1961
Age:	27	Launch Time:	06:07 UTC
Launch Site:	Baikonur Cosmodrome	Flight Duration:	108 mins
Mission:	VOSTOK-1	Speed:	27,400 km per hr
Spacecraft:	VOSTOK 3KA	Height:	327 km above earth

Timeline of Yuri Gagarin's life

1934 - 1955

09 March 1934	Yuri Alexeyevich Gagarin born	Klushino, nr Gzhatsk (Smolensk region)
1941	Enrols in a Grade School	Klushino
Spring 1941	Germany attacks The Soviet Union	USSR
October 1942	Klushino attacked and occupied by Germans	Klushino
Spring 1943	Valentin and Zoya abducted	
09 April 1943	Germans retreat from Gzhatsk	Klushino
Autumn 1945	Valentin and Zoya return home	Klushino
1946	Inspired by ex-airman teacher	Gzhatsk
Summer 1949	Finishes secondary school (6th grade) Moves in with an Uncle	Gzhatsk Moscow
30 September 1949	Starts at Vocational School no.10 (Training as a foundry-man)	Lyubertsy, Moscow
Summer 1951	Graduates from Vocational School no.10	Lyubertsy, Moscow
September 1951	Starts at Saratov Industrial Technical School	Saratov, Moscow
04 September 1954	Starts at Saratov Oblast Flying Club	Saratov, Moscow
14 March 1955	First parachute jump	Saratov, Moscow
September 1955	Drafted into Orenburg Flying School	Orenburg
November 1955	Rank: CADET	Orenburg
22 February 1956	Rank: CADET SERGEANT - permitted to fly	Orenburg

“Orbiting the Earth in the spaceship, I saw how beautiful our planet is. People, let us preserve and increase this beauty, not destroy it!”

“Облетев Землю в корабле-спутнике, я увидел, как прекрасна наша планета. Люди, будем хранить и приумножать эту красоту, а не разрушать её!”

An achievement that changed the world.

Yuri Gagarin was an ordinary man who grew up to do extraordinary things.

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