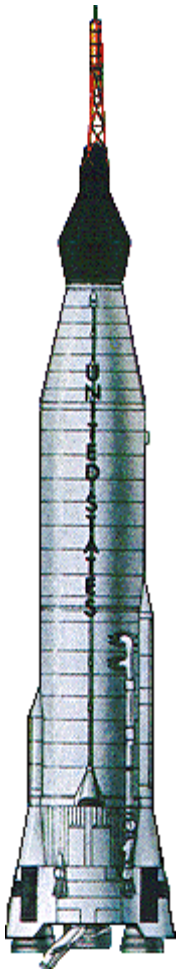
First Rocket to send a human into space

- Russian Cosmonaut, Yuri Gagarin, aboard Vostok I Rocket

Redstone Rocket

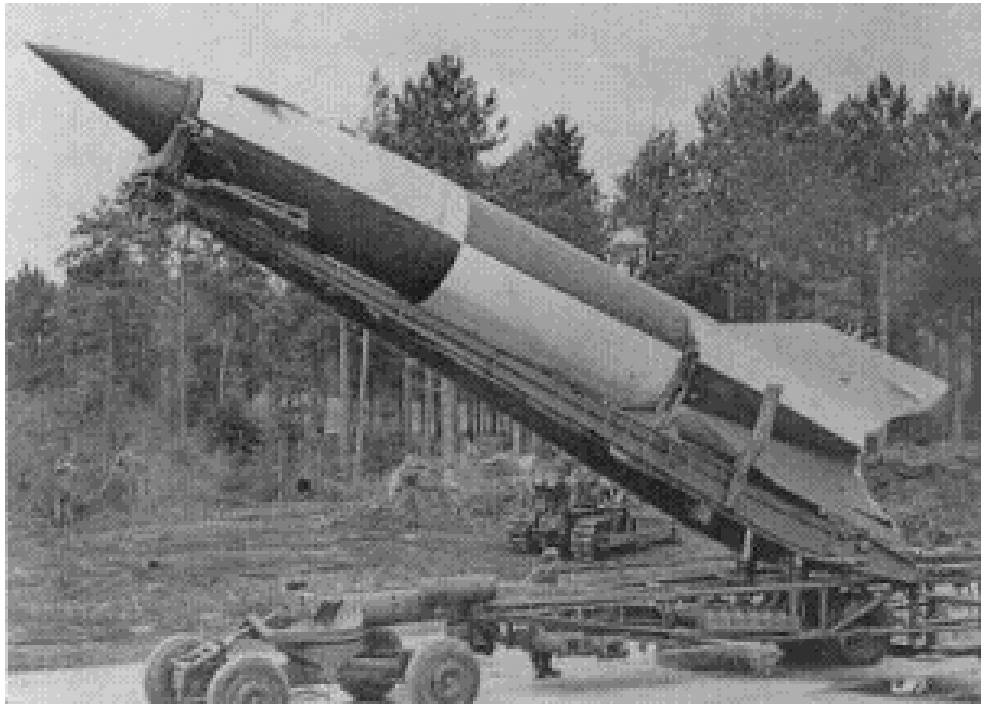
- Alan Shepard rode in a Mercury space capsule that sat on top of this Redstone Rocket
- Alan Shepard was the first American astronaut to travel into space on May 5, 1961

Atlas Rocket

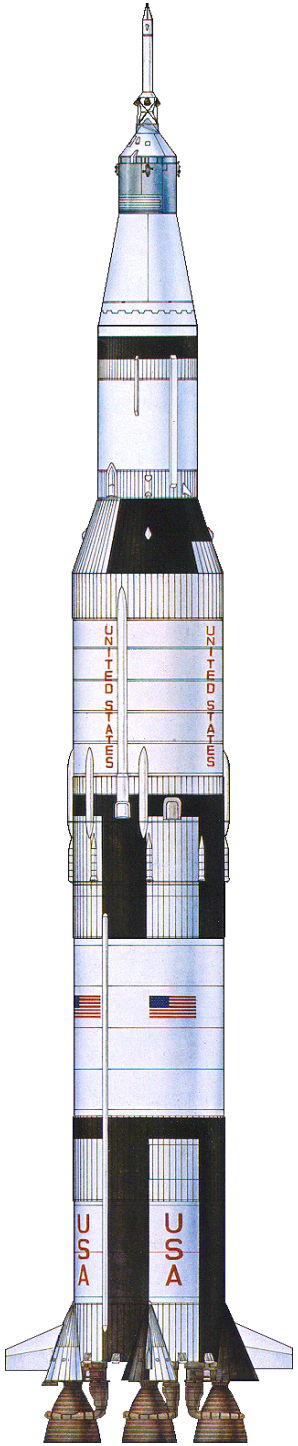


- John Glenn rode into space on top of an Atlas Rocket
- John Glenn was the first American astronaut to orbit all the way around the Earth

V-2 Rocket



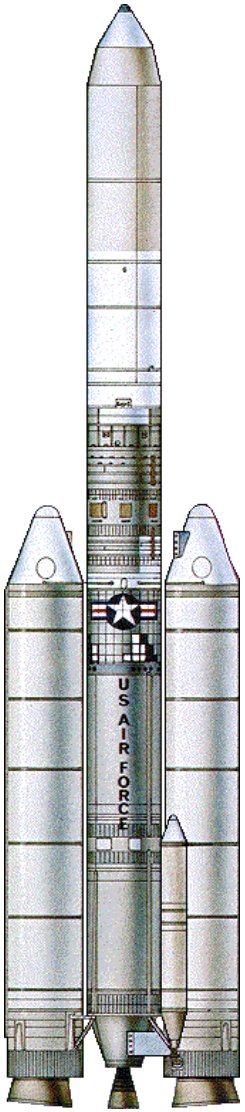
- The V-2 Rocket was designed by the Germans and used during World War II, but it did not send people into space



Saturn V Rocket

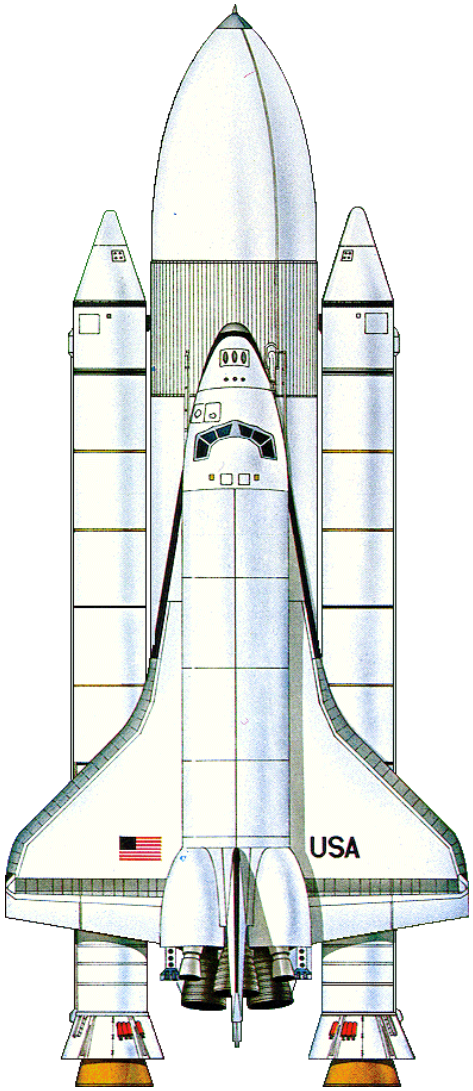
- Why did we design big rockets like this one?

Titan III Centaur Rocket



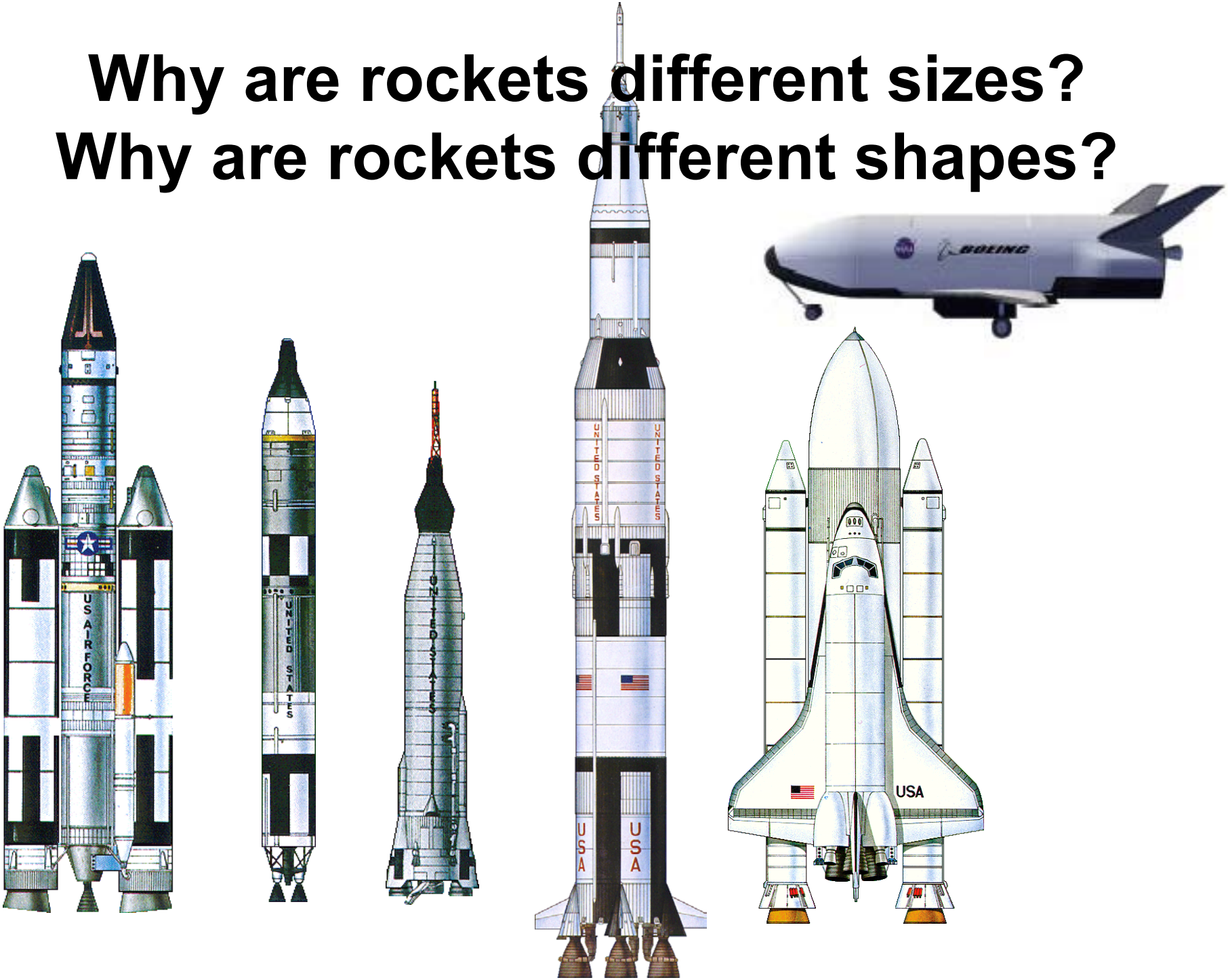
- This kind of rocket sends satellites into space. It launched spacecraft that would fly all the way to Jupiter and Saturn
- See how it has many rockets all combined into one rocket? That makes it more powerful and allows it to travel farther into space

Space Shuttle



- Why is the Space Shuttle a different shape than earlier rockets?

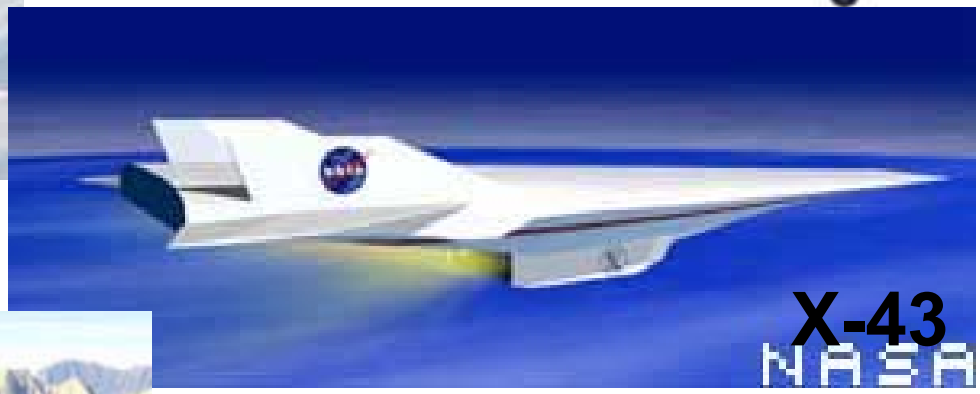
Why are rockets different sizes?
Why are rockets different shapes?



Future Space Rockets

X-38

X-37A



X-43

X-34B

- What will these future rockets be able to do?
- Why do they have wings?
- Why are some shaped narrow and others short and wide?