



U.S. SPACE MISSIONS

GEMINI 4

Part of Project Gemini, Gemini 4 launched on June 3, 1965. Project Gemini was part of the U.S. space program to explore space. The project followed Project Mercury, which introduced manned space flight. The Gemini missions were important, as they had two astronauts on board each flight.

The astronauts on Gemini 4 were Edward White and James McDivitt. The Gemini 4 mission performed many things for the first time:

- The first flight to go over one day. It was important for scientists to know if humans could stay in space long enough to travel to the moon.
- The first flight to be managed from the new Mission Control Center in Houston, Texas.
- The first flight to try and meet up with another spacecraft. While this was not successful, it gave scientists valuable information.
- Most importantly, Gemini 4 was the first flight where an astronaut would leave the capsule and go into space. Called a space walk, this was a dangerous, but important, objective of the mission. On June 3, for 20 minutes, Edward White left the capsule and floated in space. He was attached to the capsule by a cord. White took photographs of Earth during his space walk.

Gemini 4 splashed down safely on June 7, 1965 after four days in space. It had orbited the earth 66 times.



Astronauts Edward White and James McDivitt



Launch of Gemini 4

Q&A

How many astronauts were on board Gemini 4?

2

What is it called when an astronaut leaves the command module and floats in space??

a space walk

What year was Gemini 4 launched?

1965

How many days was the Gemini 4 in space?

4



Astronaut Edward White during his space walk.