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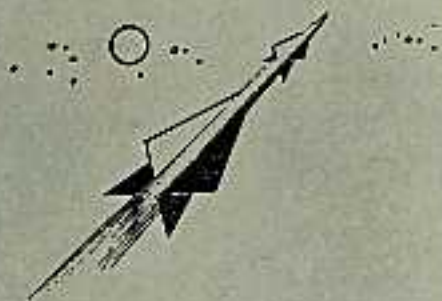
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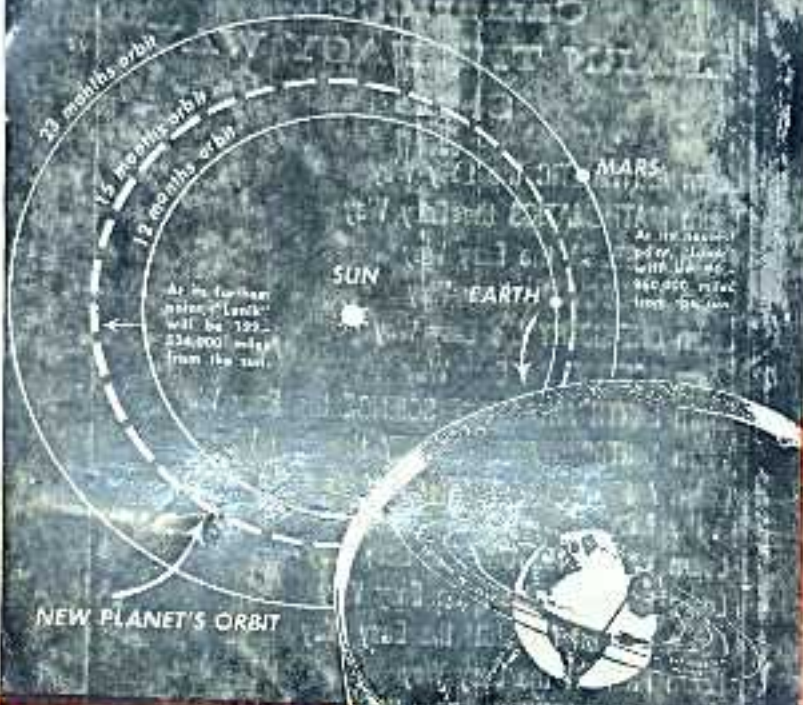
By

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Science Consultant

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First man-made planet



On January 2, 1958, man placed into orbit around the sun a new planet in our solar system. This was the first time man had ever broken anything free of earth's gravitational hold. The rocket, called "Lark," was later named "Nechta" (dream). This was the first dramatic step toward a period of exploration of our solar system. The inset shows the earth, with its man-made satellites, their orbits and their expected life span.

SPUTNIK III

EXPLORER I

VANGUARD

Orbit time _____ 1 1/2 hrs. Orbit time _____ 144 hrs. Orbit time _____ 1 1/2 hrs.
 Launched _____ May 15, 1957 Launched _____ Jan. 31, 1958 Launched _____ Jan. 21, 1958

EXPLORER IV

ATLAS

Orbit time _____ 130 hrs. Launched _____ Feb. 16, 1958
 Launched _____ July 26, 1958 Has orbit 28 days in air