

A red and white X-15 hypersonic aircraft is shown in flight, banking to the left. The aircraft has the number "6062" on its tail and a white star on its wing. The background is a clear blue sky with a faint mountain range visible at the bottom.

Space Exploration

U.S. History III

Mr. Gloyn

ACH High School

Early Space Exploration

- **During WW II Germany ahead in rocket technology.**
- **German rockets & scientists used to start U.S. space program.**
- **Soviets first to launch satellite called *Sputnik*.**
- **U.S. desperate to catch up in space race.**

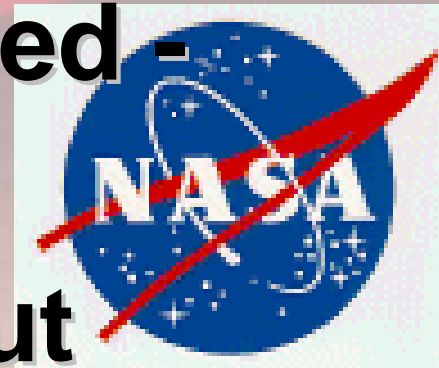
Sound Barrier

A Bell X-1 rocket airplane is shown in flight, flying from left to right across the frame. The aircraft is white with a red nose and tail. The background consists of a hazy, mountainous landscape under a clear sky.

- **Breaking the barrier necessary to space travel.**
- **Dangerous, stress on pilot & aircraft.**
- **Bell X-1 rocket designed like a bullet.**
- **Chuck Yeager 1st man to break the barrier.**

Manned Space Program

- Military had early control of rocket technology.
- Civilian-run agency created - **NASA.**
- A coordinated effort to put Americans into space.
- Space Race w/the Soviets.



Mercury Program

- **First manned space program.**
- **Single astronaut capsule launched with ballistic missiles.**
- **Mercury Seven: all military pilots.**
- **Heavily publicized – heroes.**
- **Great risk – rocket malfunctions.**



Mercury 7

