

JFK - "We Choose to go to the Moon"

Introduction:

President John F. Kennedy's speech at Rice University is well known in that it is when he declared that the United States would accept the goal of going to the moon on September 12th of 1962. However, there are a lot of other interesting aspects of this speech. For this assignment, I invite you to listen to the entire speech on Youtube, and I will also add a transcript for your review. Here is the link, and then a few questions you can answer, and any other comments and ideas you might have.

JFK Rice University Speech:

<https://youtu.be/WZyRbnpGyzQ>

Full Transcript:

<https://er.jsc.nasa.gov/seh/ricetalk.htm>

Questions:

1. At the time of JFK's speech, the US had only 8 minutes of spaceflight time. Why do you think this goal was declared?
2. President Kennedy condenses all of human recorded history into a span of 50 years for an illustration of our progress. What thoughts do you have on this?
3. Space is expensive, and the president discusses this. Do you think the cost of space technologies & exploration are justified? Why or why not?
4. The president mentions that this is, to some degree, an endeavor of "faith & vision." Is it worth the risk?
5. Why do, and should humans explore?
6. What other impressions and ideas do you get from this speech and overall strategy? Any comments?