**11b Page 132 READING TEXT**

Pre-Intermediate Student’s Book

Life

Moments in space history

On October 4, 1957, the Soviet Union sent Sputnik 1 into space and a new age in history began – The Space Age. The Soviets launched more Sputnik satellites in the ﬁfties and by 1961 they had put the ﬁrst man into space.

Eight years later, an American ﬁnally walked on the moon and during the early seventies the US led the Soviet Union in the space race. However, space travel was expensive and they needed to co-operate more. As a result, in 1975 astronauts from both countries ﬂew two spacecraft and met in space. Afterwards, one astronaut said that the mission showed that the Soviet Union and America could work together.

Nearly two decades later, leaders from both countries said they had agreed on plans for a new international space station (ISS) and by the turn of the century the ISS had started orbiting the Earth. Nowadays, the ISS is used by scientists from all over the world.

At the beginning of the twenty-ﬁrst century, businessman Dennis Tito paid twenty million dollars and told the world he loved space as he spent eight days on the ISS. Since then, space tourism has developed with plans for regular tours and ﬂoating hotels.

And what about the next half a century? In 2009, a Russian Space Chief said Russia was planning a nuclear spaceship for Mars. In 2010, the US president Barack Obama told an audience that by the mid-2030s the US would send humans to Mars. The race for Mars has already started.

Life