Frank Borman Encyclopedia Article

Frank Borman

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1928-

American astronaut who commanded *Apollo 8*, the first manned spacecraft to orbit the Moon. *Apollo 8* was the second manned flight of the *Apollo* spacecraft and the first to use the massive Saturn V booster rocket. The success of the December 1968 flight ended the Soviet-American "space race" by pre-empting a similar Soviet mission planned for early 1969, and it paved the way for the *Apollo 11* lunar landing eight months later.