

Animals in space

Space travel is not the exclusive domain of humans. See how many corners of the animal kingdom have ventured off our planet

On 20 February 1947 fruit flies became the first animals in space, reaching over 100km high. They survived the trip

In 1973 NASA sent Anita and Arabella, two spiders, to space to see if they could spin a web in a weightless environment. They could, but only after two days of acclimatising

In 2007 tardigrades became the first animals to survive complete exposure to space, living for 10 days without any protection

In the 2003 Columbia disaster, animals of several species were lost. However, live nematodes from one experiment were recovered from the crash site

Throughout the 1990s, an ark's worth of species went to space, from oyster toadfish to stick insects and jellyfish

In 1968 a tortoise, flying with other biological specimens, became the first animal in deep space. In 1975, tortoises set a record for an animal in space, spending 90.5 days out there

Albert II became the first monkey in space in 1949 (after Albert I died during a failed mission)

The USSR were the first to launch dogs into space, with Tsygan and Dezik in 1951
Laika, famously the first animal in orbit, launched in 1957 and did not survive the trip

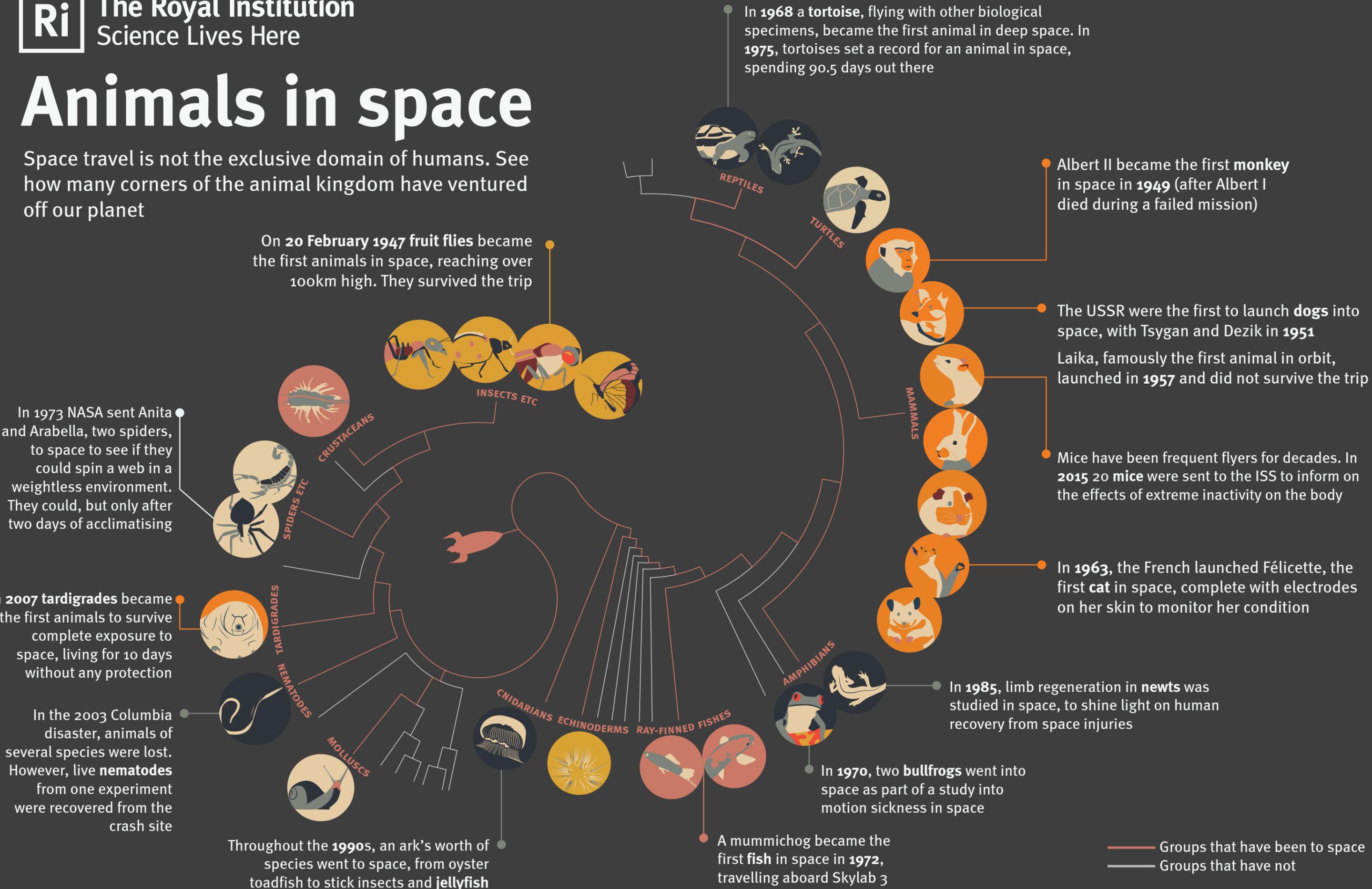
Mice have been frequent flyers for decades. In 2015 20 mice were sent to the ISS to inform on the effects of extreme inactivity on the body

In 1963, the French launched Félicette, the first cat in space, complete with electrodes on her skin to monitor her condition

In 1985, limb regeneration in newts was studied in space, to shine light on human recovery from space injuries

In 1970, two bullfrogs went into space as part of a study into motion sickness in space

A mummichog became the first fish in space in 1972, travelling aboard Skylab 3



— Groups that have been to space
— Groups that have not