

A Giant Leap: Neil Armstrong's Historic Mission

Learning objective: To recount the significant historical events of the 1969 Moon landing and explain the impact of Neil Armstrong's achievements.

Use this scaffold to organise your report about the Apollo 11 mission. Ensure you use formal language and include specific historical details.

On 20th July 1969, the world watched in awe as the Apollo 11 lunar module touched down on the dusty surface of the Moon.

Word bank: Furthermore · Consequently · Initially · In contrast · A momentous occasion · Technological advancement · Unprecedented · Significantly · Following this

1. Introduction: Briefly describe who Neil Armstrong was and why the Apollo 11 mission was considered a landmark moment in human history. Begin with: 'Neil Armstrong, an American astronaut, became a household name when...' (2 marks)

2. The Journey: Explain the challenges of the space flight. How did the astronauts travel, and what were the main risks they faced? Begin with: 'The journey to the Moon was a perilous endeavour because...' (3 marks)

3. The Moon Landing: Describe the moment of landing. What was the environment like on the lunar surface? Begin with: 'As the lunar module, the Eagle, descended, the crew had to...' (3 marks)

4. The Impact: Why was this mission so important for science and technology? Justify your answer using evidence. Begin with: 'The success of the mission changed the world significantly because...' (4 marks)

5. Compare and Contrast: How did the technology of 1969 differ from the space exploration technology we see today? Begin with: 'Whilst the Apollo 11 mission relied on 1960s technology, modern exploration is different because...' (4 marks)

6. Conclusion: Summarise Neil Armstrong's legacy. What might happen if humans had never attempted to explore the Moon? Begin with: 'Ultimately, Neil Armstrong's legacy serves as...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an investigative journalist in 1969. Write a short, persuasive editorial piece explaining why you believe the government should continue to fund space exploration despite the high costs (e.g., millions of £) involved. Would you justify the expense? Why or why not?