

A Giant Leap: Writing about Neil Armstrong

Learning objective: To write a biographical account of Neil Armstrong's life and his contribution to space exploration.

Use this writing scaffold to help you organise your biography. Remember to use formal language, third-person perspective, and accurate historical facts.

On 20th July 1969, the world watched in awe as Neil Armstrong became the first human to step onto the surface of the moon.

Word bank: Furthermore · Consequently · Initially · In addition · Following this · A significant achievement · Ground-breaking · Relentless · Extraordinary

1. Early Life: Describe Neil Armstrong's childhood and his early interest in aviation. Where did he grow up and what sparked his passion for flying? (2 marks)

2. Career Path: Explain how Armstrong became an astronaut. Mention his time in the navy or as a test pilot using the phrase: 'Before joining the space programme, he...' (2 marks)

3. The Apollo 11 Mission: Detail the journey to the moon. What was the name of the spacecraft, and who were his fellow crew members? (2 marks)

4. The Moon Landing: Describe the moment Armstrong stepped onto the lunar surface. How did it feel to be the first person to achieve this? (2 marks)

5. Legacy: Conclude by explaining why Neil Armstrong is considered an important historical figure. How did his mission change the way we view the universe? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Ask Ellie (the elephant) a question: If you could have travelled with Neil Armstrong on the Apollo 11 mission, what is the one question you would have asked him when you arrived on the moon? Write your question and explain why you chose it.