

One Small Step: The Moon Landing

Learning objective: To understand the significance of the 1969 moon landing and the role of Neil Armstrong.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below in full sentences.

In 1969, the world watched in awe as the Apollo 11 mission reached the Moon. Ellie the elephant, who loves history, explains that this was a monumental achievement for humanity. Neil Armstrong, an American astronaut, was chosen to be the first person to step onto the lunar surface. Along with Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins, Armstrong travelled over 200,000 miles through space to reach his destination.

When he finally placed his boot onto the dusty grey ground, Armstrong famously described the moment as, 'One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.' The mission was incredibly dangerous, requiring immense courage and months of rigorous training. Scientists had to calculate the complex path through space, ensuring the crew could land safely and return home. This event did not just mark a success for technology; it changed how people viewed our place in the universe. It showed that with determination and scientific brilliance, humanity could achieve the impossible. Today, we remember Armstrong not just as a pilot, but as a pioneer who opened the doors to the stars for future generations.

Word bank: Apollo 11 · astronaut · lunar · gravity · exploration · mission · spacecraft

1. Who were the three astronauts that travelled on the Apollo 11 mission? (2 marks)

2. What were the exact words Neil Armstrong said when he first stepped on the Moon? (2 marks)

3. Why does the text describe the mission as 'incredibly dangerous'? (3 marks)

4. What evidence is there in the text to suggest that the moon landing was a global event? (3 marks)

5. Do you think the moon landing was the most important event in space exploration history? Explain your answer. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Neil Armstrong standing on the moon with the Earth visible in the dark sky above him.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an astronaut preparing for your first trip to the moon. Write a short diary entry (50-70 words) about how you feel on the morning of the launch.