

Neil Armstrong: The First Footprint

Reach for the Stars: Follow in the Footsteps of Social Studies / History!

- Neil Armstrong was an American astronaut who served as the commander of the Apollo 11 mission, which successfully landed the first humans on the moon in July 1969.
- Before becoming an astronaut, Armstrong was a naval aviator and a test pilot, flying over 200 different models of aircraft during his career.
- On 20 July 1969, Armstrong and his pilot, Buzz Aldrin, landed the Lunar Module, named 'Eagle', on the moon's surface in a region called the Sea of Tranquillity.
- As he took his first step, Armstrong famously declared: 'That's one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind.'
- The mission was a major milestone in the 'Space Race', a competition between the USA and the Soviet Union to achieve superior spaceflight capability.
- Armstrong and his crew returned safely to Earth by splashing down in the Pacific Ocean on 24 July 1969.

Did you know? Did you know? When Neil Armstrong stepped onto the moon, he carried a small piece of wood and fabric from the 1903 Wright Flyer—the very first aeroplane—to honour the history of flight!

Key vocabulary: Apollo 11 · Astronaut · Lunar Module · Gravity · Space Race · NASA