

History Assessment: The Moon Landing and Neil Armstrong

Learning objective: To evaluate understanding of the Space Race, the Apollo 11 mission, and the historical significance of Neil Armstrong.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide detailed answers. Ensure you use appropriate historical vocabulary.

In July 1969, the world watched in awe as the Apollo 11 mission reached the Moon. Neil Armstrong, the mission commander, became the first human to step onto the lunar surface. This event was the climax of the 'Space Race', a period of intense competition between the United States and the Soviet Union to achieve superior spaceflight capability. Armstrong's famous words, 'That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind,' reflected the magnitude of this achievement for all of humanity.

Word bank: Apollo 11 · Space Race · Lunar Module · Astronaut · NASA · 1969 · Evidence · Significance · Exploration

1. Identify the year that the Apollo 11 mission successfully landed on the Moon. (1 mark) (1 mark)

2. Name the organisation that was responsible for the Apollo 11 space programme. (1 mark) (1 mark)

3. Explain what is meant by the term 'Space Race'. Why were the United States and the Soviet Union competing? (3 marks) (3 marks)

4. Describe the primary role of Neil Armstrong during the Apollo 11 mission. (2 marks) (2 marks)

5. Why do historians consider the Moon landing to be a 'giant leap for mankind'? Give two reasons for your answer. (4 marks) (4 marks)

6. Compare the risks faced by astronauts in 1969 with the technology available to them at the time. (4 marks) (4 marks)

7. Justify why it is important for historians to study primary sources, such as photographs and radio transcripts, from the 1969 Moon landing. (5 marks) (5 marks)

8. If the Moon landing had failed, what might have been the impact on the global perception of space exploration? (5 marks) (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram showing the Lunar Module landing on the Moon's surface. Include details like the American flag, the lunar crater, and an astronaut.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter in 1969. Write a short newspaper headline and the first paragraph of an article describing the moment Neil Armstrong stepped onto the Moon. Use at least three words from the word bank. Total: /25