

A Giant Leap for Mankind: The Story of Neil Armstrong

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

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions below. Use your best handwriting and full sentences.

On 20 July 1969, the world watched in awe as the Apollo 11 spacecraft reached the moon. Neil Armstrong, a courageous American pilot and engineer, was chosen to lead this historic mission. As he descended the ladder of the lunar module, he became the very first human to step onto the moon's dusty surface. Watching from the ground, Ellie the elephant recorded the moment in her memory, noting that Armstrong's first words—'That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind'—captured the importance of the event for all of humanity. Alongside his crewmate, Buzz Aldrin, Armstrong spent several hours collecting lunar rocks and conducting experiments. They had to navigate carefully across rocky craters, feeling much lighter than they did on Earth due to the moon's weaker gravity. This extraordinary journey proved that humans could travel beyond our planet, sparking a new era of space exploration. Even today, the footprints left behind by Armstrong remain undisturbed in the lunar dust, serving as a silent reminder of a remarkable achievement in human history.

Word bank: astronaut · lunar · mission · craters · gravity · exploration · achievement · surface

1. On what date did Neil Armstrong first step onto the moon's surface? (1 mark)

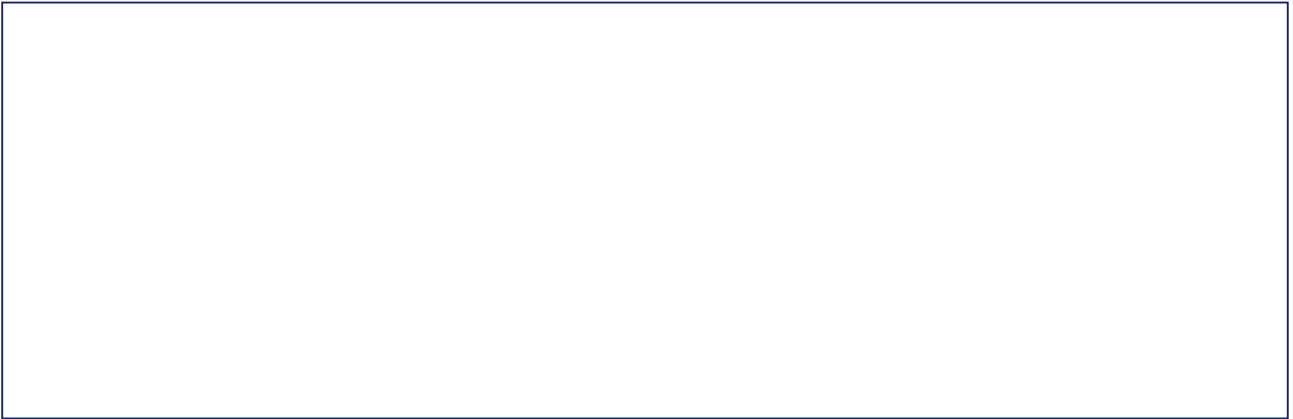
2. What two tasks did Armstrong and Aldrin perform while they were on the moon? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think the moon's gravity made it easier for the astronauts to move across the rocky surface? (2 marks)

4. What is meant by the phrase 'one giant leap for mankind'? (2 marks)

5. Do you think the moon landing was the most important event in history? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing Neil Armstrong standing on the moon with the Earth visible in the dark sky above him. Include labels for the 'lunar module' and 'craters'.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the challenges of space exploration in 1969 with modern space missions. What might happen if we were to build a permanent base on the moon today? Explain your reasoning.