

Mission to the Moon: The Journey of Neil Armstrong

Learning objective: To understand the significance of the 1969 Moon landing and evaluate the impact of Neil Armstrong's achievements on space exploration.

Use your historical knowledge of the Space Race and the Apollo 11 mission to answer the following questions. Provide detailed explanations where required.

Ellie the elephant has been reading her history books about the night the world watched the television in awe. Neil Armstrong, the Commander of the Apollo 11 mission, took 'one small step' onto the lunar surface in 1969. This momentous event changed our understanding of the universe and marked a turning point in history.

Word bank: Apollo 11 · Lunar Module · Space Race · 1969 · The Sea of Tranquility · NASA · Commander · Eagle

1. Identify the primary goal of the Apollo 11 mission and explain why it was considered a significant achievement for NASA in 1969. (2 marks)

2. Neil Armstrong is famous for his 'one small step' quote. Why is this phrase still remembered and studied by historians today? (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the challenges faced by astronauts in 1969 to the technology we have available for space exploration today. (3 marks)

4. Justify why the Moon landing is often described as a 'giant leap for mankind' rather than just a scientific success. (2 marks)

5. Explain why the location chosen for the landing, the Sea of Tranquillity, was a strategic decision for the Apollo 11 crew. (2 marks)

6. What might have happened to the future of space exploration if the Apollo 11 mission had been unsuccessful? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a detailed diagram of the Lunar Module 'Eagle' landing on the surface of the Moon, including labels for the landing pads and the American flag.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter in 1969. Write a short newspaper entry describing the atmosphere in your town as people watched the grainy black-and-white footage of Neil Armstrong stepping onto the Moon for the very first time.