A Giant Leap for Mankind

Learning objective: To learn about the life and achievements of Neil Armstrong and his significance in history.

Read the story about Neil Armstrong with Ellie the Elephant, then answer the questions below.

Ellie the Elephant loves reading history books. Today, she is learning about Neil Armstrong. Neil was born in America a long time ago. As a young boy, he loved looking up at the night sky and dreaming of flying. When he grew up, Neil became a pilot and then an astronaut. He worked very hard to learn how to fly special spacecraft. In 1969, Neil was the captain of the Apollo 11 mission. He travelled all the way to the Moon! When he stepped onto the dusty, grey surface of the Moon, he became the first person in history to ever walk there. It was a very big moment for everyone on Earth. Neil had to be very brave to fly into space. He is remembered today as a hero who showed us that we can reach for the stars if we work hard. After his trip, Neil returned safely home to his family. Ellie thinks it is amazing that a boy who loved the stars grew up to walk upon them.

Word bank: astronaut · spacecraft · lunar · mission · history · courage

1. What was the name of the mission that Neil Armstrong led in 1969? (1 mark)

2. Where did Neil Armstrong walk that no human had ever walked before? (1 mark)

3. Why do you think Neil had to work very hard to become an astronaut? (2 marks)

4. How did Neil feel about the night sky when he was a young boy? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Neil Armstrong was brave? Give one reason for your answer. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Neil Armstrong standing on the Moon. Remember to include the grey surface and the bright stars in the sky above him.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an astronaut heading to the Moon. Write three things you would pack in your space bag and tell Ellie why you chose them.