

Mission to the Moon: A Historical Timeline Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the significant events of the 1969 Apollo 11 Moon landing and recognise the historical impact of Neil Armstrong's achievement.

Ellie the Elephant has been busy in the archives! She has found six key events from the Apollo 11 mission, but they have become muddled. Your task is to sequence these events chronologically from 1 to 6. Once sequenced, use your historical reasoning to answer the questions below.

Word bank: Apollo 11 · Lunar Module · Sea of Tranquility · Saturn V · The Eagle · Lunar Surface

1. The Saturn V rocket launches from Kennedy Space Centre.
2. The spacecraft enters lunar orbit.
3. The Lunar Module, nicknamed 'The Eagle', separates from the command module.
4. Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin land on the Sea of Tranquility.
5. Neil Armstrong takes the first human step onto the Moon's surface.
6. The crew splashes down safely in the Pacific Ocean.

Explain why the landing on the 'Sea of Tranquility' was considered a pivotal moment in 20th-century history. (2 marks)

- 2. Compare and contrast the risks faced by astronauts in 1969 with the technology used by modern space agencies today. What might have happened if the Lunar Module had experienced a mechanical failure before touchdown? (3 marks)**

- 3. If a mission to the Moon today cost £15,000,000,000 and the UK government contributed 5% of the total budget, how much money would the UK have provided? Show your calculation. (2 marks)**

- 4. Justify your answer: Was the Moon landing more about scientific discovery or a demonstration of political power during the Cold War? Support your argument with historical context. (3 marks)**

5. Describe the physical challenges Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin would have faced while walking on the Moon, compared to walking on Earth. (2 marks)

6. Create a headline for a newspaper published on 21st July 1969 that captures the global excitement of the event. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a detailed diagram of the Lunar Module landing on the Moon, including labels for the 'ascent stage', 'descent stage', and the 'landing pads'. Include a small sketch of Ellie the Elephant watching the event on an old-fashioned television set.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an investigative journalist in 1969. Write a short diary entry from the perspective of someone watching the grainy television footage for the first time. How does it change your view of the future of humanity?