

History Assessment: The Race to the Moon and Neil Armstrong

Learning objective: To evaluate understanding of the 1969 Moon landing, the significance of Neil Armstrong, and the historical context of the Space Race.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide detailed answers. Ensure your writing is clear and uses appropriate historical vocabulary.

In July 1969, the Apollo 11 mission achieved what many thought was impossible: landing a human on the surface of the Moon. Neil Armstrong, the mission commander, became the first person to step onto the lunar surface. Accompanied by Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins, Armstrong's journey was the culmination of a decade of intense scientific competition known as the Space Race. This mission changed our understanding of the universe and demonstrated the rapid advancement of 20th-century technology.

Word bank: Apollo 11 · Space Race · NASA · Lunar Module · The Eagle · Gravity · Cold War · Technology · Exploration

1. Identify the primary goal of the Space Race between the USA and the Soviet Union during the 1960s. (2 marks)

2. Explain why Neil Armstrong's role as the commander of the Apollo 11 mission was historically significant. (3 marks)

3. List two specific pieces of technology or equipment that were essential for the astronauts to survive on the Moon. (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the risks faced by the Apollo 11 crew with those faced by early explorers on Earth. (4 marks)

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

6. Imagine you are Ellie the elephant, who has a brilliant memory for history. Write a diary entry from July 20th, 1969, describing the tension and excitement of watching the broadcast of the moon landing. You must include the impact of this event on the world at that time. (5 marks)

7. What might happen if the Apollo 11 mission had failed to return to Earth? Explain the potential impact on future space exploration. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram of the Lunar Module, 'The Eagle'. Include annotations explaining at least two features that helped the astronauts land safely on the lunar surface.



Extension challenge: Total: /25