

Mission Log: Neil Armstrong and the Moon Landing

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

Step into the shoes of a historian! Use your knowledge of the Apollo 11 mission to complete this mission log. Research the timeline, the challenges faced by the crew, and the global impact of the lunar landing. Ensure your answers are supported by historical evidence.

Word bank: Apollo 11 · Lunar Module · Sea of Tranquility · NASA · The Cold War · Space Race · 1969 · Gravity

1. Contextualise: Explain the historical climate of the 1960s. Why was the 'Space Race' considered such a high priority for the United States and the Soviet Union? (3 marks)

2. Chronology: List the key stages of the Apollo 11 mission from launch to return, identifying the most critical moment for the success of the landing. (3 marks)

3. Critical Analysis: Neil Armstrong famously described his first step as 'one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.' Justify why this event is regarded as a 'giant leap' for human scientific progress. (4 marks)

4. Compare and Contrast: Compare the technology used in the Apollo 11 Lunar Module to modern-day spacecraft. What are the primary differences in navigation and computing power? (3 marks)

5. Evidence Evaluation: What might have happened to the future of space exploration if the Apollo 11 mission had been unsuccessful? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

6. Perspective: Write a brief diary entry from the perspective of someone watching the first moon landing on a television in 1969. How would the atmosphere in the room feel? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine Nova the owl has invited you to a debate about the future of space travel. Write a persuasive paragraph arguing whether humans should prioritise returning to the moon or focus on sending a crewed mission to Mars. Justify your argument using historical lessons learned from the Apollo programme.