

One Small Step: The Apollo 11 Mission

Learning objective: To analyse the significance of the 1969 Moon landing and evaluate the impact of Neil Armstrong's achievement 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.

In July 1969, the world watched in awe as the Apollo 11 mission reached the lunar surface. Commander Neil Armstrong, alongside pilot Buzz Aldrin, successfully landed the Lunar Module at Tranquility Base. This pivotal moment marked the first time a human being set foot on the Moon, a feat achieved during a period of intense global competition known as the Space Race. Beyond the technological triumph, the mission provided invaluable geological samples and shifted humanity's perspective on our place in the universe.

Word bank: Apollo 11 · Lunar Module · Tranquility Base · NASA · Space Race · Scientific discovery · Cold War context

1. Explain why the Apollo 11 mission is considered a major turning point in 20th-century history. (2 marks)

2. Nova the owl is curious about the challenges the astronauts faced. Describe two technical difficulties the crew had to overcome during the descent to the lunar surface. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the technological capabilities of 1969 space travel with modern-day space exploration. What has changed? (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Was the Apollo 11 mission primarily motivated by scientific curiosity or political competition? Use evidence to support your view. (3 marks)

5. What might happen if the Apollo 11 mission had failed to return to Earth safely? Discuss the potential impact on the future of space programmes. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a detailed diagram of the Lunar Module, labelling the key components and the environment of the lunar surface as described by Neil Armstrong.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a journalist in 1969. Write a front-page newspaper headline and a short, evocative paragraph announcing the Moon landing to the public, focusing on the emotions of the global audience.