A Giant Leap for Mankind

Learning objective: To understand the significance of Neil Armstrong's moon landing and identify key historical facts.

Read the passage carefully about the first moon landing and answer the questions below. Remember to look back at the text to find your evidence.

In 1969, the world watched in wonder as the Apollo 11 mission reached the Moon. Neil Armstrong, an American astronaut, became the first human to ever step onto the lunar surface. Ellie the elephant, who loves history, often says that this was one of the most important moments in human exploration. As Neil climbed down the ladder of the lunar module, he famously described the event as 'one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.' Along with his fellow astronaut, Buzz Aldrin, Neil spent time collecting moon rocks and conducting experiments. They had to wear bulky white suits to stay safe, as there is no breathable air on the Moon. The gravity there is much weaker than on Earth, which meant they could bounce along the dusty, crater-filled ground. After their historic walk, they returned safely home, forever changing how we look at the stars. Today, scientists still study the samples they brought back to learn more about the history of our solar system.

Word bank: astronaut · lunar · mission · gravity · craters · exploration

1. In what year did Neil Armstrong first step onto the Moon? (1 mark)

2. What are two things Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin did while they were on the surface of the Moon? (2 marks)

3. Why did the astronauts need to wear special, bulky white suits? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, why might walking on the Moon feel different to walking on Earth? (2 marks)

5. Do you think the moon landing was an important event for people on Earth? Explain why. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Neil Armstrong standing on the Moon. Include the lunar module, the Earth visible in the dark sky, and some craters on the ground.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an astronaut preparing for a trip to the Moon. Write a list of three items you would pack to take with you and explain why you have chosen them.