Social Studies / History Assessment: The Space Race and Neil Armstrong

Learning objective: To evaluate the historical significance of Neil Armstrong and the Moon landing in the context of the 20th-century Space Race.

Read each question carefully. Answer in full sentences where requested. Ensure your spelling and grammar are accurate.

In 1969, history was made when the Apollo 11 mission successfully landed humans on the Moon for the first time. Neil Armstrong, the mission commander, became the first person to step onto the lunar surface. This event was the climax of the 'Space Race,' a period of intense competition between the United States and the Soviet Union to achieve superior spaceflight capability. The mission required immense scientific progress and courage from the crew, marking a turning point in how humanity viewed our place in the universe.

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

1. Identify the name of the mission that first landed humans on the Moon and the year it took place. (2 marks)

2. What was the 'Space Race' and which two nations were the primary competitors? (3 marks)

3. Explain why Neil Armstrong’s role as commander was significant to the success of the mission. (3 marks)

4. Describe two major technical challenges that scientists had to overcome to get humans to the Moon and back safely. (4 marks)

5. How did the Moon landing change the way people around the world viewed science and exploration at the time? (4 marks)

6. Extended Writing: Imagine you are a journalist in 1969. Write a 5-sentence report explaining why the Apollo 11 mission is considered one of the most important events in human history. (9 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of the Lunar Module 'Eagle' landing on the Moon, including labels for the lunar surface and the module itself.

Extension challenge: Research one other astronaut who was part of the Apollo 11 crew and write a short paragraph about their specific role in the mission. Total: /25