The First Steps on the Moon: Neil Armstrong

Learning objective: To understand the significance of the 1969 Apollo 11 mission and evaluate the impact of Neil Armstrong's achievements on history and technology.

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 Moon. Neil Armstrong, the mission commander, became the first human to step onto the lunar surface. Accompanied by Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins, this historic feat marked a turning point in human exploration and technological advancement during the 20th century.

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

1. Identify the two main countries involved in the 'Space Race' during the 1960s and explain why they were competing to reach the Moon first. (2 marks)

2. What was the name of the Lunar Module that landed on the Moon, and why is this specific landing site historically significant? (2 marks)

3. Neil Armstrong is famous for his 'one small step' quote. Why do you think this moment was considered such a significant turning point for humanity? (2 marks)

4. Max the monkey is calculating the distance between the Earth and the Moon. If a new space mission costs £12,500,000 to launch, write this figure in words and explain why such a high cost was justified in 1969. (2 marks)

5. Nova the owl wants to know: what were two major risks that Neil Armstrong and his crew faced during the Apollo 11 mission? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of the Apollo 11 mission showing the Command Module and the Lunar Module. Label the parts and include a small sketch of Neil Armstrong standing on the lunar surface.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a journalist in 1969. Write a short, exciting newspaper headline and the first paragraph of a report about the Moon landing, keeping in mind how people at the time would have felt hearing the news for the first time.