A Giant Leap: Writing about Neil Armstrong

Learning objective: To write a biographical recount of Neil Armstrong's life and his contribution to space exploration.

Use the following prompts and word bank to structure your biography. Ensure you include key dates, historical context, and the significance of the 1969 Moon landing.

On the 20th of July 1969, the world watched in awe as Neil Armstrong became the first human to set foot on the surface of the Moon.

Word bank: furthermore · subsequently · in addition to · a monumental achievement · astronomical · pioneering · nevertheless · consequently · in the midst of · extraordinary

1. Early Life and Ambitions: Describe Neil Armstrong's childhood and what sparked his interest in aviation. Start with: 'Born in 1930, Neil Armstrong developed a fascination with flight at a very young age by...' (2 marks)

2. Career Path: Explain the steps he took to become an astronaut, including his time as a naval aviator and test pilot. Start with: 'Before joining NASA, Armstrong gained invaluable experience as...' (2 marks)

3. The Apollo 11 Mission: Detail the journey of the Apollo 11 spacecraft and the challenges the crew faced. Start with: 'The Apollo 11 mission was a complex operation that required...' (3 marks)

4. The Moon Landing: Write about the moment he stepped onto the lunar surface. Start with: 'As he descended the ladder of the Lunar Module, Armstrong famously remarked...' (3 marks)

5. Legacy: Reflect on why his mission is still considered important today. Start with: 'Armstrong’s legacy continues to inspire future generations because...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a different member of the Apollo 11 crew, such as Buzz Aldrin or Michael Collins, and write a short paragraph explaining their specific role during the mission.