

THE TWINKL TIMES

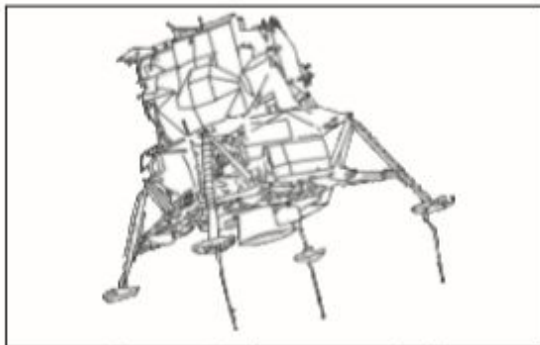
MEN ON THE MOON!

It's One Giant Leap...

21st July 1969

Yesterday, Neil Armstrong and Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin made history when they became the first humans to walk on the Moon.

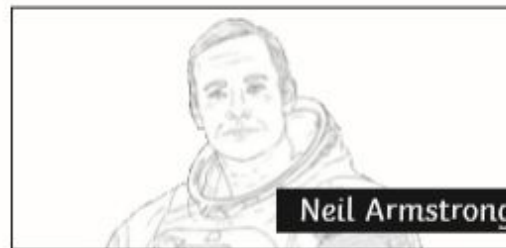
They reached the Moon's orbit on 19th July 1969 following a three-day journey into space in the Saturn V rocket alongside fellow astronaut Michael Collins. Yesterday, Neil and Buzz entered the lunar module, which is nicknamed The Eagle. Michael remained in the rocket to carry out important experiments and take photographs of the mission.



The Eagle (lunar module)

The mission to reach the surface of the Moon had some difficulties. Firstly, The Eagle was heading towards a large crater so, while Buzz monitored speed, Neil took manual control to direct it towards a safer landing position.

Fuel was running low but the brave space explorers landed safely on the Moon's surface in an area known as the Sea of Tranquillity. Neil contacted the NASA headquarters to tell them the good news and was heard saying, "Tranquillity Base here. The Eagle has landed." Everyone at NASA was able to breathe again.



Neil Armstrong

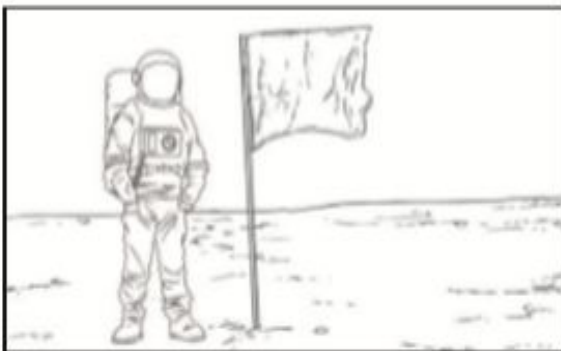
So far, the mission had been hard work so NASA told the astronauts that they must rest. They struggled to sleep and, after almost four hours, Neil left The Eagle. He made his way slowly down the metal stairs towards the dusty surface of the Moon. He reached his left foot down and stated, *"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."*

Buzz joined him after almost 20 minutes and the bold space travellers then spent around two and a half hours exploring the Moon.

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They moved up to 90 metres from the lunar module while collecting samples of Moon dust and rock. Nearly 600 million excited television viewers around the world watched the most thrilling part of their mission as Neil and Buzz planted the American flag on the Moon.



This was another task that didn't go to plan straight away. The metal pole used to hold the flag out horizontally wouldn't fully extend but Neil and Buzz managed to place the flag so that it could be clearly seen. It looked as if it was fluttering even though there is no wind on the Moon to waft a flag.

The astronauts even spent time jumping like kangaroos and leaping like gazelles as they enjoyed moving on the Moon's surface, where gravity is less powerful than on Earth.

Their final task was to reveal a metal plaque which said:



After this, the astronauts re-entered the lunar module for another rest.

Neil and Buzz were then able to head back to the rocket. However, they first had to fix an ignition switch that had been snapped by their large spacesuits. They used part of a pen to fix the switch and then returned to the rocket where Michael was waiting patiently, orbiting the Moon.

These brave astronauts made history and will be remembered forever for being the first men on the Moon.

1. When did the astronauts reach the Moon's orbit? **Tick one.**

- 18th July 1969
- 19th July 1969
- 20th July 1969
- 21st July 1969

2. Join the boxes to match each astronaut to one important thing that they did during the mission.

Neil Armstrong

took photographs of the mission

Buzz Aldrin

safely landed the lunar module

Michael Collins

monitored the speed of the lunar module

3. List **two** things that did not go to plan during the landing of The Eagle on the Moon.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

4. Where did The Eagle land on the Moon?

5. Find and copy **one** word from the first page which tells you that Neil and Buzz found it difficult to sleep.

6. Why were television viewers excited to be watching the Moon landing?

7. Why do you think that a flag was planted on the Moon?

8. In your opinion, which part of the mission was the most important? Explain your answer.

