

THE TWINKL TIMES

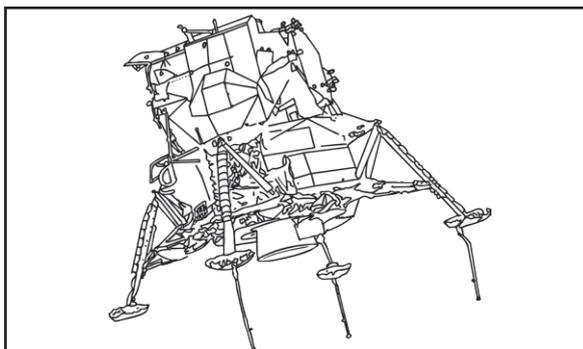
MEN ON THE MOON!

It's One Giant Leap...

21st July 1969

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

Following their three-day journey into space in the Saturn V rocket, the astronauts (alongside Michael Collins) reached the Moon's orbit on 19th July 1969. After a period of rest, Neil and Buzz entered the lunar module, nicknamed The Eagle, yesterday. Michael remained in the rocket to carry out vital experiments and take photographic records of the mission



The Eagle (lunar module)

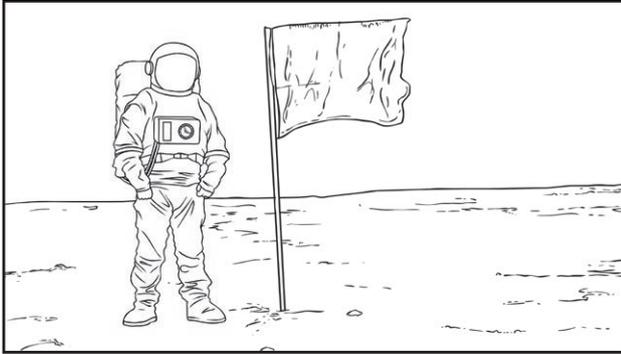
Their mission (to reach the surface of the Moon) was met with some challenges. Initially, The Eagle was heading towards a large crater so Neil took manual control to direct it towards a safer landing position.

With fuel quickly depleting, the courageous space explorers skilfully landed on Earth's satellite. Neil immediately contacted the NASA headquarters to give them the good news and was heard uttering, "Tranquillity Base here. The Eagle has landed." An audible sigh of relief came back from NASA as the astronauts touched down at an area on the Moon's surface close to the Sea of Tranquillity, which they had named Tranquillity Base.



Due to the complexity of the mission so far, NASA enforced a rest period. However, this was shortened when both of the astronauts struggled to sleep. After almost four hours waiting within the lunar module, Neil was the first to exit; he slowly descended the metal stairs towards the dusty surface of the Moon.

Having reached the final rung, he stretched his left foot down (there was a gap of about 50 centimetres) and proclaimed, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

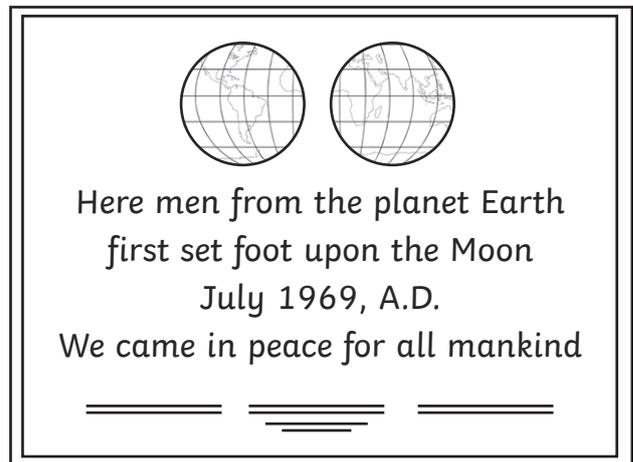


After almost 20 minutes, Buzz joined him. Together, the intrepid space travellers spent approximately two and a half hours exploring the Moon. They spent time collecting samples of Moon dust and rock, moving up to 90 metres from the lunar module. The most exciting part of their mission, as watched by nearly 600 million fortunate television viewers around the world, was the moment they planted the American flag on the Moon.

This was another task that initially didn't go to plan; the metal pole used to hold the flag out horizontally (there is no wind on the Moon to waft a flag) wouldn't fully extend. With perseverance, Neil and Buzz managed to place the flag so that it could be clearly seen in a proud, fluttering position.

Moving on the Moon's surface, where gravity is less powerful than on Earth, appeared to give the astronauts enjoyment; they spent time jumping like kangaroos and leaping like gazelles! Neil reported that it was not at all difficult to move around in low gravity.

Their final task before re-entering the lunar module (which would then see the pair head back to the rocket where Michael was waiting patiently, while orbiting the Moon) was to unveil a metal plaque. Its inscription read:



After another rest period of seven hours, Neil and Buzz were able to return to the rocket. This, however, did not happen without any issues; they realised that the ignition switch was broken (their bulky spacesuits had snapped it when they were leaving The Eagle). The pair's ingenuity meant that this issue was resolved quickly and the switch was fixed using part of a pen!

Despite facing complications during their mission, these valiant astronauts made history and will be remembered forever.

Questions

1. When did the astronauts walk on the moon? Tick **one**.

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

2. Number the boxes to show the order that these important things happened during the mission to the moon.

	The Eagle landed on the Moon's surface.
	Saturn V reached the Moon's orbit.
	Buzz Aldrin stepped onto the Moon.
	Neil and Buzz returned to Saturn V.
	Neil Armstrong stepped onto the Moon.

3. Find and copy one word from the first page which tells you that the astronauts were ordered to rest.

4. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

_____ is less powerful on the _____ than on Earth so the astronauts found it _____ to jump like kangaroos and leap like gazelles.

5. Give **three** things the astronauts did on the Moon.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

6. Why do you think that the astronauts left a plaque on the Moon?

7. **The pair's ingenuity meant that this issue was resolved quickly...**

In your own words, explain what is meant by **ingenuity**.

8. Which of the three astronauts was the most important during the mission?

Explain your answer.

9. Why do you think the astronauts will be remembered forever?
