

Name: .....

Date:.....

### Neil Armstrong biography

Neil Armstrong was a pilot, astronaut and engineer who was the first person to walk on the moon.

#### Early life

Neil Armstrong was born in Ohio, USA on the 5<sup>th</sup> August 1930. As a child, he loved aeroplanes and took his first flight aged six. He began learning to fly an aeroplane at 15 and had earned his pilot's license by 16 - learning to fly a plane before he knew how to drive a car!

#### Career

Neil Armstrong became a pilot for the U.S. Navy and flew jets during the Korean War. During one mission his 'plane was hit and he had to eject, escaping with his parachute, before being rescued.

After the war, Neil Armstrong worked as a test pilot, flying more than 200 different aircraft, including jets, helicopters, gliders and even rockets. It was dangerous but exciting work!



Apollo 11 left Earth on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1969, with a crew of three - Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins. Four days later it landed on the Moon. It was a tricky landing and the rocket nearly ran out of fuel but Neil Armstrong managed to land safely. He was the first person to leave the rocket and as he stepped onto the surface of the Moon he said, "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind".

In September 1962, Neil Armstrong joined NASA, the American space agency, to become an astronaut. His first space flight was on Gemini 8 but his most famous mission was as commander of Apollo 11.



Buzz Aldrin also joined Neil Armstrong on the Moon and they spent 21 hours there, taking photographs, exploring the Moon's surface and collecting rocks and other samples. Apollo 11 returned safely to Earth on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1969.

After the mission, Neil Armstrong continued to work for NASA and later he became a professor at the University of Cincinnati.

He died on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2012 and is remembered all over the world for one of the most remarkable achievements in human history.

### Fun facts:

- Neil Armstrong was a Boy Scout and took a scouting badge to the moon with him.
- The moon landing was watched by 600 million people, all over the world.
- There is no wind to disturb the moon's surface, so Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin's footprints are still there!

Name: ..... Date:.....

**Neil Armstrong comprehension questions**

Learning objectives:

- I can retrieve, record and present information from non-fiction.
- I understand what I read independently by drawing inferences and justifying inferences with evidence

Read the text and answer the questions below.

1. Why has the writer used one sentence before the main part of the text?

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2. What does the word 'eject' mean?

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3. How do the sub-headings help the reader to find information about Neil Armstrong?

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4. Was Neil Armstrong adventurous? Explain your answer.

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5. Who was in charge of the Apollo 11 mission? How do you know?

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6. When did Neil Armstrong land on the Moon? Explain how you know.

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7. Which Apollo 11 astronaut did not walk on the Moon?

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8. Explain what Neil Armstrong meant when he said, “One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”

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9. How long did Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin spend on the Moon?

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**Comprehension answers**

1. Why has the writer used one sentence before the main part of the text?

To act as an introduction.

2. What does the word 'eject' mean?

To throw something or someone out, suddenly.

3. How do the sub-headings help the reader to find information about Neil Armstrong?

By organising the information into different sections.

4. Was Neil Armstrong adventurous? Explain your answer.

Yes: he learnt to fly at a young age, flew jets in the Korean War and worked as a test pilot ("dangerous but exciting work") before becoming an astronaut.

5. Who was in charge of the Apollo 11 mission? How do you know?

Neil Armstrong is referred to as the 'commander'.

6. When did Neil Armstrong land on the Moon? Explain how you know.

20th July 1969 - launched on 16th July and landed "four days later".

7. Which Apollo 11 astronaut did not walk on the Moon?

Michael Collins

8. Explain what Neil Armstrong meant when he said, "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

Although stepping off the ladder onto the moon was a short distance for him to travel, it represented a big breakthrough for humankind. (Armstrong later explained that he had said 'One small step for a man' but the 'a' wasn't audible on the recording.)

9. How long did Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin spend on the Moon?

21 hours

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**Space mission**

Imagine you are the crew leader on a mission to space. Write a diary of your adventure! Remember to include:

- where your mission is going to; the moon, Mars or even an undiscovered planet!
- who you are travelling with and the name of your spaceship
- how long your mission takes you
- your thoughts and feelings during the mission.



Mission to .....

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