

First Man on the Moon

In 1969, Neil Armstrong became a worldwide name and a hero. He was the first person to walk on the Moon.

His Early Life

Neil Armstrong was born on 5th August 1930, in the state of Ohio in the USA. His passion for flying blossomed at a young age. When he was two years old, his parents took him to Cleveland Air Race which was where he saw his first ever aircraft up close. At the age of six, Neil was taken by his dad for a ride in an aeroplane. He worked hard to achieve his dream of being a pilot: Armstrong was only 16 years old when he received his first pilot's licence, before he could even drive a car!



Fun Facts

- He was an eager Boy Scout and earned the rank of Eagle Scout!
- As a child, he suffered from travel sickness, but luckily he was absolutely fine on the journey to the Moon!
- He loved making model aircraft in his spare time.

During his long career, Neil Armstrong flew more than two hundred different aircraft. His strengths were being resilient and calm under pressure so he was excellent at flying in very dangerous situations. As a result, in September 1962, he was accepted to the NASA astronaut corps.

The Moon Landing

Finally, everything was ready! On 16th July 1969, at 13:32, the powerful Saturn V rocket blasted Neil Armstrong and his crew mates Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin and Michael Collins into space. It was a long journey to the Moon that took over three days!



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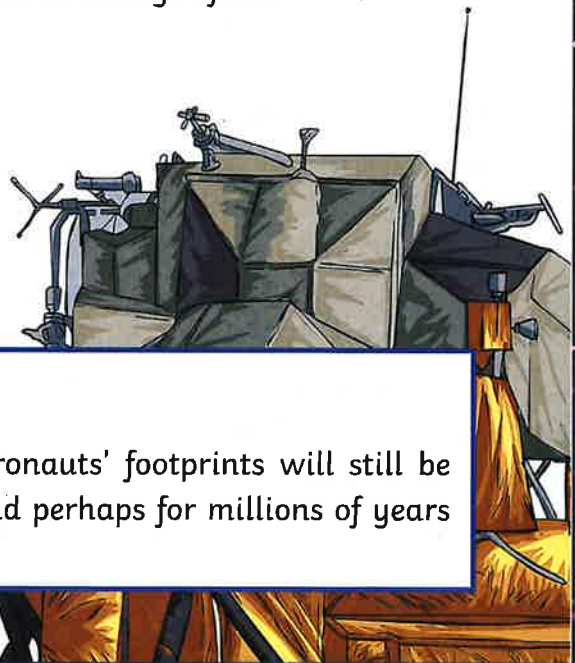
Four days later, Armstrong and Aldrin landed on the Moon. They landed in the lunar module, called 'the Eagle'. Collins stayed in orbit, doing experiments and taking photographs. Finally, following checks and preparation, on 20th July 1969, they opened the hatch of the Eagle. The Moon landing was shown all across the world on television. It is estimated that 600 million people watched. As he stepped off the ladder, he was heard to say, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

During their moonwalk, Armstrong and Aldrin planted the flag of the United States of America. They also spent time collecting moon rocks from the surface and brought them back to Earth to be studied. The astronauts arrived home on Earth on 24th July 1969.



Later Life

After he had returned home, Armstrong retired from being an astronaut. However, his enthusiasm for space and aircraft continued and he became a professor in order to share his passion. Neil Armstrong died on 25th August 2012 at the age of 82.



Did You Know...?

There is no wind on the Moon so the astronauts' footprints will still be there right now, nearly fifty years later, and perhaps for millions of years to come!