

THE TWINKL TIMES

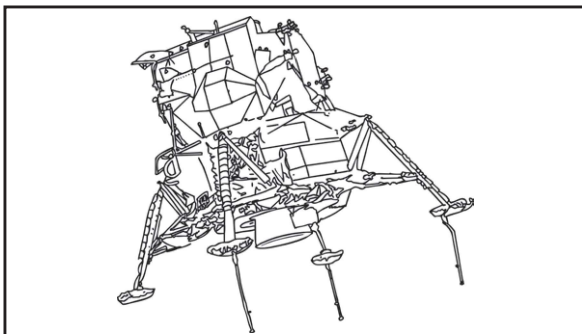
MEN ON THE MOON!

It's One Giant Leap...

21st July 1969

Almost 600 million people on Earth watched on as NASA astronauts (Mission Commander Neil Armstrong and Lunar Module Pilot Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin) made history yesterday when they became the first humans to walk on the Moon.

Spending three days travelling into space to orbit the Moon is the furthest man has travelled and, yesterday, we explored our universe a little bit more. Alongside Command Module Pilot Michael Collins in the Saturn V rocket, the intrepid astronauts reached the Moon's orbit on 19th July 1969.



The Eagle (lunar module)

Despite their enthusiasm, NASA enforced a period of rest before Neil and Buzz were able to enter the lunar module, nicknamed The Eagle. Importantly, Michael volunteered to remain inside the rocket to carry out

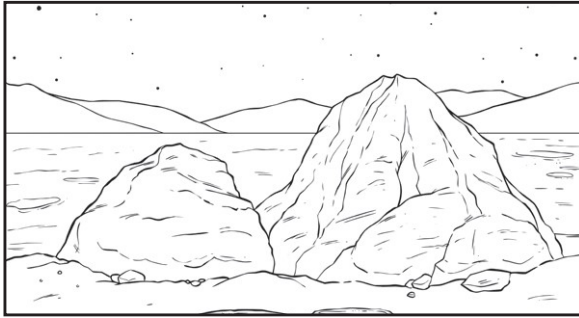
vital experiments and take photographic records of the mission. No amount of training could have prepared the travellers for the challenges ahead of them during their mission to reach the surface of the Moon. However, their composure and resilience meant that Neil and Buzz completed every task without panic.



Neil Armstrong

Initially, when The Eagle was heading towards a large crater during landing, Neil was forced to take manual control to direct it towards a safer landing position. With fuel quickly depleting, the courageous space explorers skilfully landed on Earth's satellite close to the Sea of Tranquillity. 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 before cheering was heard.

Due to the complexity of the mission so far, NASA imposed another rest period. However, this was shortened when both of the astronauts found sleeping in the cramped conditions of the lunar module difficult.

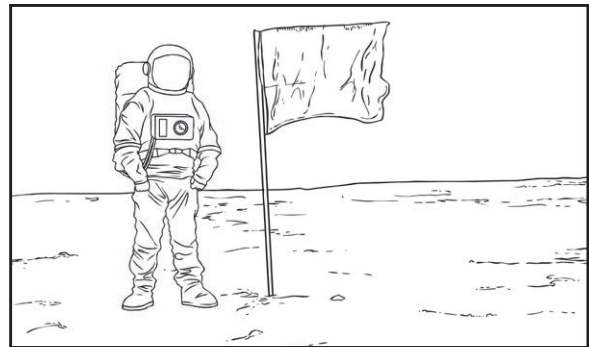


After almost four hours waiting within the lunar module, Neil was the first to exit. After a slight struggle to open the door, he slowly descended the metal stairs towards the dusty surface of the Moon. Having reached the final rung, Neil stretched his left foot down (there was a gap of about 50 centimetres) and proclaimed, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

After almost 20 minutes, Buzz joined him and the valiant space travellers then spent approximately two and a half hours exploring the Moon, moving up to 90 metres from the lunar module and collecting samples of Moon dust and rock.

Moving on the Moon's surface, where gravity is less than 20% of that on Earth, appeared to give the astronauts enjoyment as 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.

The most exciting part of their mission, as watched by many fortunate television viewers around the world, was the moment they planted the American flag on the Moon.



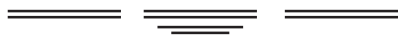
However, this was another task that initially didn't go to plan. The metal pole used to hold the flag out horizontally (there is no wind on the Moon to waft a flag) wouldn't fully extend but, with perseverance, Neil and Buzz managed to place the flag so that it could be clearly seen in a proud, fluttering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

"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

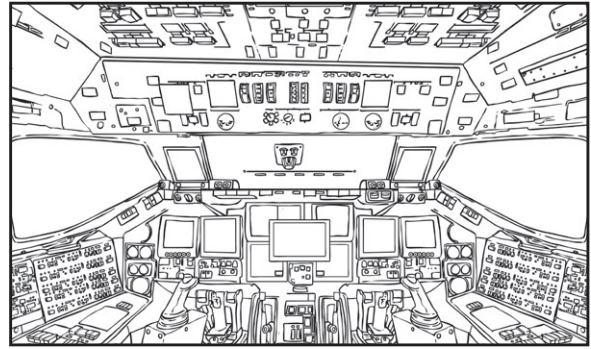
Their final task went smoothly; before re-entering the lunar module and heading back to the rocket where Michael was waiting patiently, orbiting the Moon, Neil and Buzz unveiled a metal plaque with the inscription:



Here men from the planet Earth
first set foot upon the Moon
July 1969, A.D.
We came in peace for all mankind



After another compulsory rest period of seven hours, during which they managed to sleep following their exciting adventure, Neil and Buzz were able to return to the rocket.



This, however, also presented an issue: 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 was resolved quickly and fixed using part of a pen! Neil and Buzz completed their ascent to Saturn V and, in about seven minutes, were back in the Moon's orbit.

Despite facing complications during their mission, these heroic astronauts made history and will be remembered forever for being the first men on the Moon.

Questions

1. How many people watched the Moon landing on television? Tick **one**.

- nearly 6 million
- nearly 60 million
- nearly 600 million
- nearly 6000 million

2. ...**their composure and resilience meant that Neil and Buzz completed every task without panic.**

What do **composure** and **resilience** mean? Tick **one**.

- ideas and perseverance
- dedication and courage
- calmness and strength
- happiness and determination

3. Find and copy **two** words from the text that mean the same as **obligatory**.

1. _____

2. _____

4. What were each of the astronauts' job titles?

- _____
- _____
- _____

5. Find and copy **three** words from the text that mean the same as **brave**.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

6. Why do you think that the lunar module was nicknamed The Eagle?

7. Why did an audible sigh of relief come back from NASA when The Eagle landed?

8. Why is the flag described as **proud**?

9. Why were Neil and Buzz unable to sleep before their Moon walk but able to sleep after?

10. How do you know that the mission was complicated?
Give two reasons to support your answer.
