

## Walking on the Moon



photos courtesy NASA

Fifty years ago, on July 20, 1969, humans set foot on another celestial\* body for the first time. That day, Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin walked on the moon.

Astronaut Michael Collins orbited overhead in the space capsule.

The Mini Page celebrates this anniversary by looking back on our amazing first journey to the moon.



The Apollo 11 crew, left to right: Neil A. Armstrong, Commander; Michael Collins, Module Pilot; Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Lunar Module Pilot.

### Lifting off

The moon missions were launched on May 25, 1961, when President John F. Kennedy announced the goal of sending astronauts to the moon.

His challenge sent people on a journey unlike any other in human history. For the first time, people would leave our home planet to travel to another body in space.

But exploration wasn't Kennedy's first goal. In April 1961, the Soviet Union\*\* sent

\* Celestial means relating to the sky.

\*\* The Soviet Union was a big, powerful country that split into smaller countries, including Russia, in 1991.

\*\*\* In a cold war, violence has not yet begun.

the first human into space. The United States wanted to prove the Soviets could not beat us. The U.S. was in the middle of the Cold War\*\*\* with the Soviets, where both sides felt threatened by the other.

### A gift of hope

The moon landing took place in the middle of great difficulties in the U.S. The Vietnam War and anti-war protests were raging. Sen. Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. had been assassinated a year earlier.

But in the summer of 1969, millions of people stopped and watched in awe as humans did something wonderful. For a short time, the moon landing brought the world together.

### Stepping out

When Neil Armstrong stepped onto the moon, he famously announced: "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind."

About 1 billion people all over the world watched the moon landing live on TV. Ask your grandparents or other family members what they remember about watching this important event on television when they were younger.



Neil Armstrong took this photo of Buzz Aldrin in front of the lunar module on July 20, 1969.

### On the way to the moon

The moon missions were named after the Greek god Apollo, the god of light, music and the sun.

Apollo 1 ended in tragedy when three astronauts, Gus Grissom, Ed White and Roger Chaffee, were killed in a fire on the launch pad in January 1967.

Apollo 4, 5 and 6 were unmanned flights that were used to test equipment and technology. Apollo 8 was the first mission with humans aboard to orbit the moon.

Just months after the July 1969 landing on the moon, in November, Apollo 12 landed there again, with three astronauts on board.

On the last Apollo mission, astronaut Gene Cernan said this as he stepped off the moon for the last time:

"America's challenge of today has forged man's destiny of tomorrow. And, as we leave the Moon ... we leave as we came and, God willing, as we shall return, with peace and hope for all mankind. Godspeed the crew of Apollo 17."



This photo taken of Earth by the crew of Apollo 17 is commonly known as "The Blue Marble."

### Resources



#### On the Web:

- [bit.ly/MPmoonlanding](http://bit.ly/MPmoonlanding)

#### At the library:

- "Moonwalk: The Story of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing" by David Jenkins
- "12 Incredible Facts About the First Moon Landing" by Angie Smibert

### Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of the moon landing are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



ALDRIN, ANNIVERSARY, APOLLO, ARMSTRONG, ASTRONAUT, BODY, CELESTIAL, COLLINS, EARTH, JOURNEY, KENNEDY, LANDING, LEAP, LUNAR, MISSION, MODULE, MOON, ORBIT, PLANET, SPACE, STEP.

P S H T R A E Y D E N N E K E  
L S P A C E D M O D U L E T E  
A O N C G N I D N A L R N M B  
N C E L E S T I A L E A P I Y  
E Z A S T R O N A U T N I S E  
T R A N U L O C O L L I N S N  
F P E T S O G O T I B R O I R  
B O D Y M A P O L L O D B O U  
A N N I V E R S A R Y L Q N O  
F D E G N O R T S M R A A P J

### Cook's Corner

#### Moon Rocks

##### You'll need:

- 2 cups oats
- 1/2 cup wheat germ
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup pecans, chopped

- 1/4 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 3 tablespoons water
- 3/4 cup raisins



\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

##### What to do:

1. Combine the first 6 ingredients in a 9-by-13-inch, microwave-safe pan. Mix well and spread evenly.
2. Pour oil and water evenly on top.
3. Microwave on HIGH 4 minutes. Stir and spread evenly again.
4. Microwave on HIGH 2 to 3 minutes. Let stand until cool.
5. Add raisins and mix well. Makes about 5 cups of granola.

1. Someone who travels to discover unknown places (8-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

2. A person who trains to travel into space (9-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

3. One of nine bodies that circle the sun (6-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □

4. A vehicle built to escape Earth's atmosphere and travel into space (9-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

1. Meredith is a brave \_\_\_\_\_ who has many adventures.
2. Roger studies hard to become an \_\_\_\_\_ like Carlos.
3. Bobby hoped to see stars and a \_\_\_\_\_ in the night sky.
4. Marie wants to travel on a \_\_\_\_\_ to visit Mars.

### ROOTONYM®

by Jan & Carey Orr Cook



Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Explorer, Astronaut, Planet, Spaceship

### Mini Jokes



Neil: How is the moon supported in the sky?  
Buzz: By its moonbeams!

### Eco Note



From Earth, we always see the same face of the moon because the moon is spinning on its axis at the same speed that it is going around Earth (that is, it is in **synchronous rotation** with Earth). The light areas of the moon are known as the highlands. The dark features, called **maria** (Latin for seas), are impact basins that were filled with lava between 4.2 and 1.2 billion years ago. The craters, which have been preserved for billions of years, provide an impact history for the moon and other bodies in the inner solar system.

adapted from nasa.gov

### For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about the 50th anniversary of the moon landing.

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