

Name _____

Apollo 11

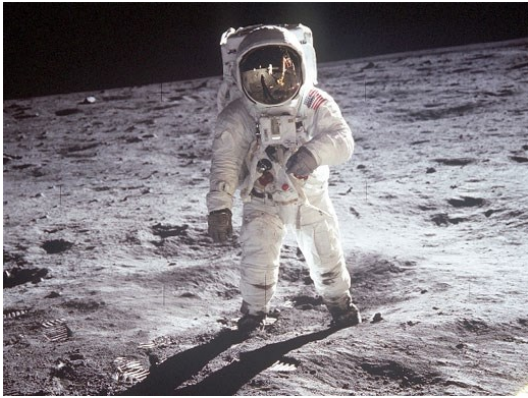
The first manned lunar mission launched from the United States, under the supervision of NASA, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, which was founded in 1958 while Dwight Eisenhower was president. Apollo 11 was sent to the moon on July 16, 1969 to reach the lunar surface for a moon landing, four days later, on the 20th of the same month. Apollo 11 was launched from Cape Canaveral, now Cape Kennedy. On board the Apollo 11,



there were three experienced astronauts: Neil Armstrong, 38 years old, the commander and the chief of the mission; Michael Collins, 38 years old, a Lieutenant Colonel in the Armed Forces of the U.S.; and Eugene "Buzz" Aldrin, 39 years old, a colonel in the United States Armed Forces. Armstrong and Aldrin boarded the Eagle module, the lunar

module that would take them to the moon's surface. Collins remained in the Columbia command module, controlling the complex mission operations. The landing place chosen by the experts of the NASA was the lunar territory called the Sea of the Tranquility, Mare Tranquillitatis. It had the best conditions for an ideal moon landing being less hilly. Once Apollo 11 left the atmosphere, ground operations control was carried out from the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.





The Apollo 11 mission had several objectives. The first and most important was to successfully make a manned trip to the Moon and bring the spacecraft back to Earth safely. Another objective, purely scientific in nature, was to inspect the lunar and collect all the

samples possible of the composition of the lunar surface, as well as to take as many photographs and videos as possible. Finally, another important objective was to beat the USSR in the race for control of space, within the dynamics imposed by the Cold War.

During the preparations for the mission, there were several questions. There had never been a man sent to another planet or satellite, which worried NASA technicians. It wasn't known exactly how astronauts would move over a surface with minimum gravity like on the moon. Also, it was possible that the astronauts could be affected by psychological disorders or a viral infection that could be hard to control when they returned to Earth.

Armstrong and Aldrin remained on the lunar surface 2 hours and 31 minutes. During that time, they traveled about 250 meters and managed to collect 21.7 kilos of rock samples, in addition to installing a nuclear particle detector, a seismometer to detect the seismic activity on the moon, and a retroreflector of laser beams to measure the exact distance between the moon and the earth. Before the astronauts returned to the



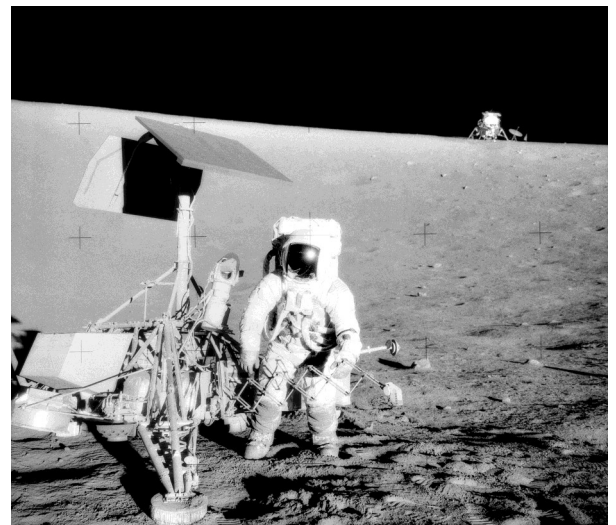


Eagle, they planted the American flag on the moon's surface, with a little difficulty, and a commemorative plaque. In the first moments, the two astronauts were joined by a safety cord which they removed when they knew they were not in any danger. The suit worn by the astronauts weighed 80 kilos and was made specifically for this mission by a company specializing in this type of garment, the International Latex Corporation of Dover.

When Neil Armstrong took the last step off the Eagle ladder, he said the famous words, "This is one small step for man, but a giant leap for mankind".

After returning to the Eagle, the astronauts slept a few hours before takeoff and docking with the Columbia controlled by Collins. Columbia's return flight was successful, and on July 24, the three astronauts landed safely in the Pacific Ocean about 1500 kilometers southwest of Hawaii, ending a very important mission for NASA, the United States, and for all mankind. The astronauts were honored as heroes by the president himself, Richard Nixon. They had to spend a lengthy period of time in quarantine to prevent any type of viral infection or strange behavior they may have brought back with them.

The total cost of the mission amounted to \$25.4 billion, about \$135 billion today, just the construction of the Apollo 11 spacecraft cost would be about \$28 billion today. An interesting fact, the moon landing was viewed live on television by more than 600 million people, a record number of viewers for 12 years.



Name _____

Date _____

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

1. Why was the Sea of Tranquility chosen for the moon landing?

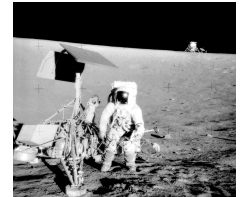
- a. Because it was the first place the ship found as soon as it crossed the moon's atmosphere.
- b. Because that's where there were many rock samples for collect and analyze.
- c. Because it was the place with the best conditions for the moon landing.
- d. Because the three astronauts liked it.

2. What was the main objective of the Apollo 11 mission?

- a. To make a manned trip to the moon bring the ship back to Earth successfully.
- b. Demonstrate the existence of extraterrestrial life.
- c. Outperform the USSR in the space race.
- d. Check the resistance of the space suits that the astronauts.

3. Who was the president of the United States when NASA was founded?

- a. Richard Nixon.
- b. Lindon B Johnson.
- c. John Fitzgerald Kennedy.
- d. Dwight Eisenhower



4. What measuring device did the astronauts not install on the lunar surface?

- a. A detector of nuclear particles.
- b. A hygrometer to record the humidity of the lunar air.
- c. A seismometer to detect possible earthquakes.
- d. A laser retroreflector to measure the distance between the earth and the moon.

5. Why did astronauts have a long quarantine period after reaching Earth?

- a. To be observed in case they brought any viral disease back from the moon or had any psychological problems.
- b. To isolate them from the international press who wanted to know all kinds of details.
- c. To keep them from commenting on technical details of the mission that could be developed by other competing countries.
- d. It was the express wish of the astronauts themselves and because the protocol of NASA required it.