



Read the passage about space exploration. Then answer the questions below.

Humans have been exploring space since 1957. Each passage focuses on a real mission, discovery, or astronaut story.



Apollo 11: Humanity's Bold Journey to the Moon



The race to the Moon was a defining challenge of the 20th century, and the Apollo 11 mission marked its triumphant conclusion.

Launched by NASA on July 16, 1969, its primary goal was to achieve a crewed lunar landing and return the astronauts safely to Earth. This ambitious undertaking required the dedication of over 400,000 engineers, scientists, and technicians across the United States, working tirelessly for years to overcome countless technical hurdles and perfect the complex systems needed for space travel.

The crew of Apollo 11 consisted of Commander Neil Armstrong, Lunar Module Pilot Buzz Aldrin, and Command Module Pilot Michael Collins. They lifted off from Kennedy Space Center in Florida aboard a Saturn V rocket, the most powerful rocket ever built at the time. The journey to the Moon took approximately three days. Upon arrival, the spacecraft entered lunar orbit, circling the Moon while preparing for the critical landing phase. Collins remained in the command module, named *Columbia*, orbiting above, while Armstrong and Aldrin prepared to descend.



On July 20, 1969, Armstrong and Aldrin entered the lunar module, *Eagle*, and began their descent towards the Moon's surface. The landing was not without its challenges; Armstrong had to manually pilot the module past a boulder field to find a safe landing spot. Finally, with only seconds of fuel remaining, the *Eagle* touched down in an area



known as the Sea of Tranquility. Hours later, Neil Armstrong became the first human to step onto the lunar surface, uttering his famous words, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Buzz Aldrin joined him shortly after.

During their two and a half hours on the Moon, Armstrong and Aldrin conducted several scientific experiments, collected 47.5 pounds (21.5 kg) of lunar rock and soil samples, and planted the American flag. They also left a plaque stating, "Here men from the planet Earth first set foot upon the Moon, July 1969 A.D. We came in peace for all mankind."

Their work provided invaluable data for scientists back on Earth, helping us understand the Moon's geology and history. After their historic moonwalk, they re-entered the *Eagle* to rendezvous with Collins in *Columbia*.

The three astronauts then began their journey home, splashing down safely in the Pacific Ocean on July 24, 1969. The success of Apollo 11 not only fulfilled President John F. Kennedy's challenge to land a man on the Moon before the end of the decade but also demonstrated humanity's incredible capacity for innovation and cooperation. It remains one of the greatest achievements in human history, inspiring generations to look up at the stars and dream of future explorations. 🌍

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

- (1) **What was the primary goal of the Apollo 11 mission?** 🎯
- (A) To build a space station in Earth's orbit
 - (B) To send a robot to Mars
 - (C) To achieve a crewed lunar landing and return safely
 - (D) To orbit the Sun for the first time
- (2) **Why was the Saturn V rocket essential for the Apollo 11 mission?** 🚀
- (A) It was the only rocket that could carry enough fuel for the return journey.



- B It was the most powerful rocket ever built at the time, capable of launching the heavy spacecraft to the Moon.
- C It allowed the astronauts to live comfortably for three days in space.
- D It had advanced navigation systems for precise lunar landing.

(3) In the passage, what does the word "rendezvous" mean in the context of the mission?



- A To separate into smaller parts
- B To land safely on a planet
- C To meet at a pre-arranged time and place
- D To conduct scientific experiments

(4) If the *Eagle* had landed in the boulder field, what might have been a likely consequence for the mission? ●

- A The astronauts would have collected more diverse rock samples.
- B The landing would have been smoother and easier.
- C The lunar module could have been damaged, jeopardizing the mission.
- D Michael Collins would have joined them on the surface.

(5) Explain in your own words why the collection of lunar rock and soil samples was important for scientists. 🧪

