



Look at the resource below, which shares some information about the first people on the Moon.

On 16th July 1969 the astronauts, Neil Armstrong, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin and Michael Collins blasted off aboard a Saturn 5 rocket on the Apollo 11 mission – to land humans on the Moon!

It took four days, six hours and 45 minutes to get to the Moon.

The Apollo 11 mission had three spacecraft: the Command Module Columbia, a Service Module and the Lunar Module Eagle. Michael Collins stayed in the Columbia, doing experiments and taking pictures, whilst Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin descended to the Moon in the Eagle.

Neil Armstrong stepped on the Moon first, followed by Buzz Aldrin. For three hours, they walked around the Moon, did experiments and collected bits of moon dirt and rocks. They put a US flag on the Moon and left a sign.

On 24th July 1969, all three astronauts returned to Earth safely.



Edward Aldrin

Edwin Aldrin was born January 20th 1930. His family gave him the nickname 'Buzz'.

At the age of 21, Aldrin entered the United States Air Force and became a pilot.

In 2016, Buzz Aldrin was the oldest person to visit the South Pole in Antarctica at the age of 86.

Neil Armstrong

Neil Armstrong was born 5th August 1930.

As a child, he loved aeroplanes and space and by the age of 16, he got his student's pilot license - this was before he learned to drive!

At the age of 17, Neil went to university to study aeronautical engineering, which is the science used in designing, building and testing aircrafts.



"I didn't feel like a giant, I felt very, very small."

Neil Armstrong, speaking about his Moon experience.

How do you think Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin felt as they took the first ever steps on the Moon?



Look at the resource below, which shares some information about the Moon.

Did you know?

Earth has just one moon. It is a rocky, cratered, dusty place and is Earth's only natural satellite. It is roughly a quarter the size of Earth. The Moon has gravity (a force that pulls things to the centre) but it is weaker than Earth's, meaning you'd weigh less if you stood on the Moon!



The Moon and Earth apply a gravitational pull on each other. The Moon's gravitational pull on Earth causes the oceans to bulge out on the side closest to the Moon and the opposite side, furthest from the Moon. These bulges create high tides. The low points are where low tides occur.

Factbox



Diameter: 3476 kilometres/2160 miles

Temperature range (near the lunar equator): approx. -130 to 120 degrees Celsius

Average distance from Earth: 238,855 miles/384,400 kilometres

Orbit: 27.3 Earth days



Moon phases in the night sky.

The Moon is not a source of light. It reflects light from the Sun, which is why we can see it. It takes 27 days to orbit the Earth. Its orbit around Earth is shaped like a slightly squashed circle, known as an ellipse. As the Moon orbits, some of the light from the Sun is blocked by the Earth making it appear to change shape as we see more or less of it. These shapes are called the phases of the Moon.

Do you think you would like to visit the Moon?

Picture News



What would it be like to live on the Moon?

Nasa officials have recently announced that humans could live on the Moon during this decade. They wouldn't be living there permanently, but could stay for long periods to carry out scientific research. Howard Hu, who leads the Orion lunar spacecraft programme for Nasa, said they would need to create homes on the lunar surface to support scientific expeditions. Nasa's plan is that the next mission would have a crew onboard, followed by a third, where astronauts would land on the Moon. This would be the first manned Moon trip for Nasa since Apollo 17, 50 years ago, in December 1972.



- Look at this week's poster image and talk about what you can see. Nasa has said that within this decade, it hopes to have a base on the Moon for people to live at whilst completing projects. Share your initial response to this news.
- Read through the information found on the assembly resource, which provides more details about the plans for a possible lunar base. Share your thoughts about the project and what everyday life may be like there.
- Watch this week's useful video, which imagines what life would be like on the Moon. What do you believe would be most difficult about life on the Moon?
- Talk about the parts of life that you think would be different on a moon base, e.g., eating meals, exercising, and taking part in hobbies.
- There are lots of reasons for having a lunar base, including for further research, mining potentially valuable resources and for tourism. Do you think that people will want to take a holiday or trip to the Moon?

Reflection

As our understanding of our solar system and our access to technology increases, there will be more opportunities to learn from the incredible Universe we live in!

Picture News



KS1 focus

Who were the first people on the Moon?



- Think about the Moon. When was the last time you saw the Moon in the sky? What time of day was it? Can you describe what it looked like? What do you know about the Moon?
- The Moon is a huge ball of rock, which orbits (follows a curved path around) the Earth. It is not a light source. We only see it when light from the Sun falls on it and is reflected back to Earth.
- The Moon is an average of 238,855 miles away from Earth and people have travelled this great distance before and visited the Moon! Have you ever travelled a long distance? Where did you go? How did you get there? How long did it take you?
- On 20th July 1969, the first people stepped foot on the Moon. Look at resource 1, which shares more information about this. How do you think Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin felt as they took the first ever steps on the Moon?
- An estimated 650 million people from all around the world watched the first ever moon landing on TV. Would this have been something you would have been interested to watch?
- Think about some of your firsts e.g., first time you tied a shoelace, first time you swam a width, first day at school. How did you feel? Was anyone watching/cheering you on? Who?

Reflection

The first people to step foot on the Moon were Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. Millions of people tuned in to watch this incredible achievement. We will have many firsts in our lives, which may also lead to incredible achievements too!

Picture News



KS2 focus

What do we know about the Moon?



- Write 'The Moon' on the board. What do you already know about the Moon. Collect as many facts as possible.
- Look at resource 2, which shares some information about the Moon. Do you have any questions or anything else you would like to find out about the Moon?
- Using your own prior knowledge and the information from resource 2, is the Moon a place you would like to visit? Why?
- Focus on the image of the Moon phases. Have you seen the Moon looking like any of these phases? Could you see the Moon last night? What did it look like?
- In 1969, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were the first people to ever step foot on the Moon. Since then, 10 other astronauts have walked on the Moon. Since 1972, no other person has been on the Moon or in lunar orbit. Does this surprise you? Why do you think nobody has been back to the Moon since 1972?
- Discuss how we know about the Moon. How much of the information have you been told, read or seen for yourself? When astronauts visited the Moon, experiments were conducted, and samples collected. Can you think of other ways we know about the Moon e.g., photographs taken in space, observations.

Reflection

Earth has just one moon. We can often see the Moon when we look at the night sky. In the past, discoveries have been made, which help us learn more about the Moon. It is likely, in the future, we will discover even more!



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Create a Moon Observation Journal to explore the Moon phases for yourself. Think about the following:

- What information do you need to record? Date, time?
- How will you show the shape of the Moon? Describe it, draw it?
- How long will your observation last? A day, week, month, more?

Use your Moon Observation Journal to carry out your Moon observation. Once you have completed it, share the information with others in the class.

- What does this tell us about the Moon?
- Can you name the different phases of the Moon?

Option 2

Explore Earth's gravity by producing a gravity painting. Before you begin, think about the following:

- What colours do you want to use?
- What tone do you want the colours to be?
- Will you need to mix any of the paints to create the colours/tones you would like to use?

Prepare your paint palette with the colours you will use. The paints need to be quite runny so add some water if needed. Your paper needs to be held vertically so you may need to work with a partner once you are ready to paint. Select your first colour. Carefully, dab it at the top of your paper.

- What happens to the drip of paint?
- Can you explain what gravity has to do with this?

Repeat with other colours/tones until your gravity painting is complete!

Challenge question – if you created your gravity painting on the Moon, how might it be different?



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Moon art! Create a picture of the Moon. Before you begin, look at some pictures of the Moon and discuss the colours, shapes and lines you can see.

- What will you create your Moon art on? White paper, black paper, a paper plate?
- How will you create the colours, shapes and lines you can see on the Moon? Chalk, pastels, paint, pencil, materials?
- Will you use a brush, sponge, your finger?

Explore different resources and create your Moon art. Once they have been completed, share them with others by displaying them in your classroom.

Option 2

Use this opportunity to create a dance inspired by a journey to the Moon! First, agree on some futuristic space music (a quick internet search will help you find some). Next, select a group of 4 or 5 children and think about your space journey to the Moon choreography:

- How will you show blasting off into space?
- What will your journey be like? Will you swirl in your spacecraft?
- Once you arrive on the Moon, how will you take your first step? Will it be quick or slow? Will you be smiling or concerned?
- What will you do once you are on the Moon?

Challenge – consider your dance choreography.

- Can you include unison and cannon?
- Is everyone in time?
- Are we all using the same foot/arm or turning the same way?
- Can you change level and direction of your dance?



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

www.bbc.com/news/uk-63688229

This week's useful video

Imagining life on the Moon
www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5V2tcg1BvQ

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

Crew

A group of people who work on and operate a ship, aircraft, spacecraft etc.

Nasa's plan is that the next mission would have a **crew** onboard.

Decade

A period of ten years.

Nasa has said that within this **decade**, it hopes to have a base on the Moon for people to live at whilst completing projects.

Expedition

An organised journey with a particular purpose such as exploration or research.

...said they would need to create homes on the lunar surface to support scientific **expeditions**.

Lunar

Of or relating to the Moon.

There are lots of reasons for having a **lunar** base.

Mission

An important job or task that someone or a group of people are sent somewhere to do.

Nasa's plan is that the next **mission** would have a crew onboard.

Permanently

Always and forever.

They wouldn't be living there **permanently**, but could stay for long periods to carry out scientific research.