



Exploring The Moon

Neil Armstrong loved flying. He flew fighter planes for the American Navy. He tested rocket-powered planes. Later, he became an astronaut.

Neil was part of the Apollo 11 mission. The mission was to go to the moon. No one had been there before. America wanted to be first.

Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins were Neil's crew mates. Neil and his crew trained for 6 months. Being an astronaut is tough. There was lots to prepare. They had to make sure they were ready for the flight.

Their rocket was called Saturn V. It was the most powerful machine ever built. It launched on July 16th, 1969. It travelled 200,000 miles. It took four days. It was Neil's job to fly the lunar lander. The lunar lander is a small craft. It travels between the rocket and the moon. The lunar lander took Neil and Buzz to the surface.

Neil was first to walk on the moon. The first man ever. As he stepped down, he said, 'That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.' Billions of people watched on TV back on Earth.

Neil and Buzz spent three hours on the moon. They took samples. They did experiments. They took photographs. Michael spent the time orbiting the moon. That means he travelled round it.

Only 12 people have ever walked on the moon. Neil and Buzz's footprints are still there. There is no wind on the moon to blow them away.

VIPERS QUESTIONS

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What was the name of the mission?

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Who was the first man on the moon?

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How long did it take to get to the moon?

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How do you think the crew might have felt travelling to the moon?

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What samples do you think the astronauts might have taken from the moon?