



# U.S. SPACE MISSIONS

## Apollo 17

Apollo 17 launched shortly after midnight on December 7, 1972. It was the first time a manned flight launched at night. Apollo 17 carried three astronauts: Eugene Cernan, Richard Evans and Harrison Schmitt.



*Launch of Apollo 17*

The flight to the moon took about three days. On December 11, Cernan and Schmitt left the command module in the lunar module and went to the surface of the moon. They spent three days doing experiments on the moon. They also drove around the moon on the lunar roving vehicle.

After the experiments were completed, Cernan and Schmitt returned to the command module. Evans had been piloting the command module while it orbited the moon. Apollo 17 returned to Earth and safely splashed down in the Pacific Ocean on December 19.

Apollo 17 set many records. Apollo 17 spent the longest time orbiting the moon and Apollo astronauts Cernan and Schmitt spent the most time on the moon's surface.

Apollo 17 was the last of the Apollo space missions. The mission was also the last time that humans went to the moon.



*Apollo 17 astronauts Harrison Schmitt, Richard Evans and Eugene Cernan (seated)*

## Q&A

What year was the Apollo 17 launch?

**1972**

Which of the Apollo 17 astronauts went to the surface of the moon?

**Eugene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt**

Where did Apollo 17 splash down?

**The Pacific Ocean**

What space mission was the last to go to the moon?

**Apollo 17**



*Astronaut Eugene Cernan on the moon driving the lunar roving vehicle.*