

U.S. SPACE MISSIONS

APOLLO 11

Apollo 11 was the historic U.S. space mission where the first man walked on the moon. The mission completed the goal established by President John F. Kennedy in 1961 to put a man on the moon before the end of the 1960s.

Apollo 11 launched on July 16, 1969 from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. On board the command module, called *Columbia*, was the crew of three astronauts: Edwin Aldrin, Neil Armstrong, and Michael Collins.

On July 19, Apollo 11 began orbiting the moon. The next day, Armstrong and Aldrin went on board the lunar module, named *Eagle*. *Eagle* would take them to the moon's surface. Collins remained on board *Columbia* and continued to orbit the moon.



Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Edwin Aldrin



Launch of Apollo 11

Eagle landed on the moon's surface on July 20, 1969. Neil Armstrong was the first person to walk on the moon. Aldrin followed Armstrong, and the two began a series of scientific experiments. They also placed a U.S. flag on the moon's surface. The astronauts reported that walking on the moon, which has one-sixth the gravity of Earth, was not difficult.

After almost 22 hours on the moon, Aldrin and Armstrong returned to *Eagle* and left the moon's surface to rejoin Collins in *Columbia*. They then began the trip back to Earth.

Apollo 11 landed safely in the Pacific Ocean on July 24, 1969. A total of 12 men would walk on the surface of the moon before the Apollo program ended in 1972.

Answer the questions about the Apollo 11 space mission.

1. What year did Apollo 11 launch?

2. Who was the first man to walk on the moon?

3. What was the name of the lunar module?

4. The gravity of the moon is what fraction of the Earth's gravity?



Astronaut Edwin Aldrin on the moon