

# Apollo 11 Command Module

The Apollo 11 Command Module, the part of the spacecraft that housed the astronauts that landed on the moon, is on display in the National Air and Space Museum, part of the Smithsonian family. Locked in a competition of space exploration with the Soviet Union, President Kennedy established the Apollo space program in 1961 to accomplish his goal of putting the first humans, and the first Americans, on the moon before the end of the *decade*. In 1969, the Apollo 11 mission succeeded in doing so, landing astronauts Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin on July 20. The moon landing was televised, and families across the world heard Neil Armstrong *utter* the famous phrase “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind” as he set foot on the moon for the first time.



**Answer the questions below on a separate piece of paper.**

1. The Apollo crew also left a plaque on the moon, reading “Here men from the planet Earth set foot upon the moon.” Why do you think they chose “the planet Earth” instead of “The U.S.A.”?
2. If you could, would you want to go to space? Why or why not?



*Apollo 11 Command Module at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.*

## **Vocabulary**

*decade*: a period of ten years. “The 1960s were an important decade for aeronautics.”

*utter*: to say something, “He uttered a cry of protest.”