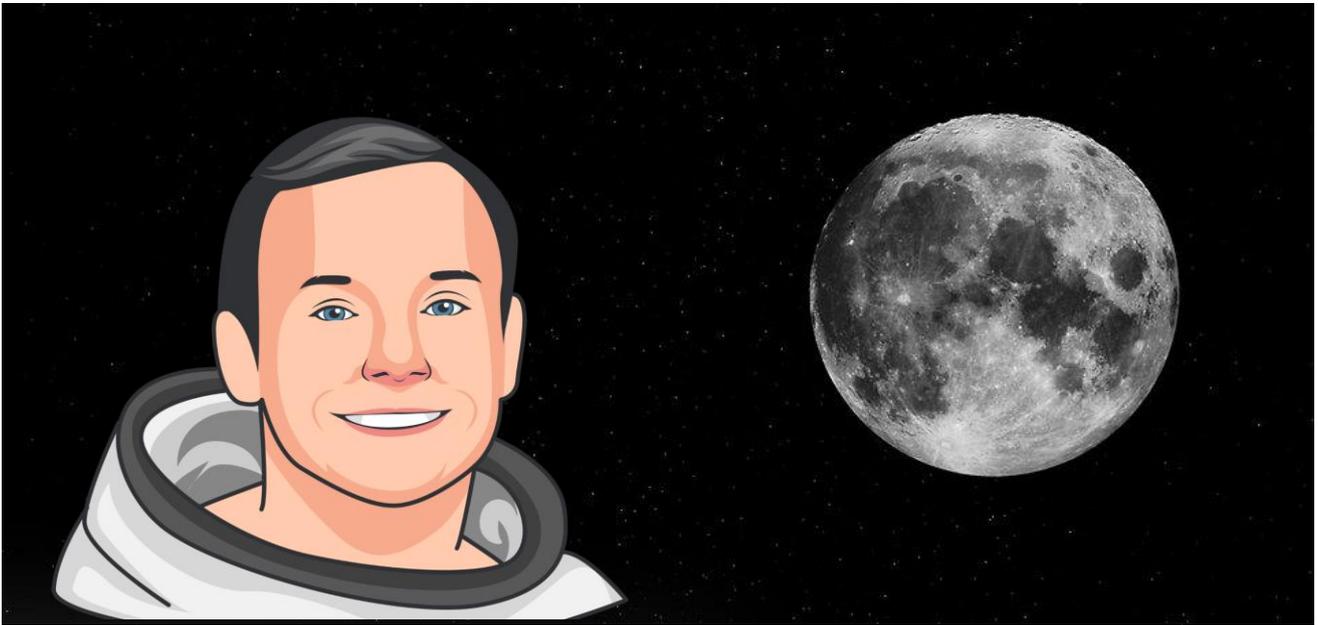


Deepening Understanding

YR 2 Biography

Neil Armstrong by Beth Gascoigne-Owens



Have you ever looked up at the moon at night and wondered what it would be like to go there? Well, one man and his two astronaut friends were lucky enough to fly in a space rocket to the moon nearly 50 years ago. One of them, a man called Neil Armstrong, was the first man to walk on the moon. This is the story of his life.

Early Life

Neil Armstrong was born in 1930 in the United States of America. He had a younger brother and a younger sister. His family moved around when he was young so he lived in lots of different places. He was interested in flying and he got his pilot licence when he was only fifteen years old (before he was even able to drive a car!)



Armstrong's Career

After going to university and learning to fly lots of different types of planes he became part of NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) in September 1962. This is the American company who explore space.

Armstrong flew on two space missions. His most well-known mission was on the rocket Apollo 11 in 1969 where he became famous for being the first man to walk on the moon.

The Apollo 11 Mission

The Apollo 11 craft launched from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, USA on July 16th 1969. The world eagerly awaited news from the spacecraft. It took around five days for the spacecraft to safely reach the moon. He will be remembered for saying 'That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind' as he took his first steps onto the moon.

He was joined by another astronaut, Buzz Aldrin. A third cosmonaut (Michael Collins) stayed on Apollo 11 to keep the spacecraft safe for the return journey. It is said that it was supposed to be Buzz Aldrin who took the first steps. However the hatch to climb out of Apollo 11 was nearer to Armstrong and it would have meant Aldrin climbing over him to get out of the spacecraft first!

Famous for Life

Even 50 years after Armstrong, very few people have ever walked on the moon because space travel is extremely complicated and extremely expensive. Neil Armstrong is likely to be remembered forever for being the first person to step on the surface of the moon and his footsteps can still be found there today. He sadly died in 2012 at 82 years old.

