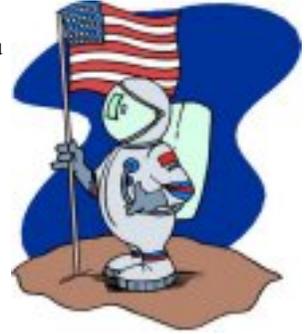


Neil Armstrong

By Sharon Fabian

¹ When you are planning to go on a trip, you have to get things ready. You have to pack. If you're going to the beach for a vacation, maybe you pack swim suits, shorts, and T-shirts, but you might also pack a few warm clothes in case it gets cold at night. If you're planning a trip to someplace you've never been before, maybe you do a little research to find out what the weather is usually like there. Maybe you pack something to read, something to play with, or some sports equipment. If you're going on a business or study trip, you pack the materials that you will need while you are there. You might look up the best route on a map, or ask someone for directions. You might fill up the gas tank in your car, or buy a plane ticket.



² In 1969, Neil Armstrong was planning a trip. For this trip, he couldn't choose a route from a road map, and there was no one who had taken the same trip before, so he couldn't just ask for directions. Neil Armstrong was planning a trip to the moon. If the trip went as he planned, he would be the first person ever to set foot on the moon.

³ Armstrong and the other scientists at NASA had a lot of planning to do. Since both the Earth and the moon are always moving, it would take a lot of very precise math to figure out how to get there and back. The weather would be unpredictable, as always, and might cause last minute changes in their plans. They had to choose a landing site. Since no one had ever been on the moon's surface, they had to make a scientific guess about where would be a good place to land. They chose a place named the Sea of Tranquility.

⁴ They had to pack too. Armstrong and his crew, Michael Collins and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, would have to take everything they would need for their eight-day journey. There would be no stopping for pizza on this trip. Not only would they have to pack all of their food, they would also need to take their own water, and even their own oxygen! They would need to pack special equipment to deal with the weightlessness in space and the low gravity on the moon. They needed to plan how they would keep warm in space. They also packed equipment for science experiments, including a seismograph, -- used to detect earthquakes (or moonquakes) -- and a laser that could be used to calculate the exact distance from the Earth to the moon. They took a camera, and containers to bring samples back to Earth.

⁵ Planning for this trip also involved lots of training. The three astronauts had to relearn many everyday things. Simple activities like eating and moving around would require new skills in the weightless atmosphere of the spaceship.

⁶ Finally it was time to go. Everything was ready, and the weather was right. On July 16, a huge Saturn V rocket blasted Armstrong, Collins, and Aldrin into orbit in their spacecraft, *Apollo 11*. For four days, they raced through space. Then, on July 20, while Collins orbited the moon in *Apollo 11*, Armstrong and Aldrin climbed into *Eagle*, their lunar landing vehicle, and headed straight for the moon. The spot they had picked for a landing turned out to be too rocky, but the astronauts maneuvered to a smoother area and landed. Armstrong was the first one to step out onto the moon. He had a short speech prepared for the occasion: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

⁷ They took pictures of the moon, collected samples of moon rocks, set up their experiments, and all together spent just two and one-half hours on the moon. They left behind footprints that are probably still there today.

⁸ Then they started on their journey home. On July 24, they splashed down in the ocean, safely back on Earth. They must have been glad to be home, but what a trip it had been!

Neil Armstrong

<p>1. <i>Apollo 11</i> carried _____ astronauts.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Two</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B One</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Three</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Four</p>	<p>2. The module that landed on the moon was called _____.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A <i>Tranquility</i></p> <p><input type="radio"/> B <i>Apollo 11</i></p> <p><input type="radio"/> C <i>Eagle</i></p> <p><input type="radio"/> D <i>Saturn V</i></p>
<p>3. The rocket that boosted them into space was called _____.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A <i>Saturn V</i></p> <p><input type="radio"/> B <i>Eagle</i></p> <p><input type="radio"/> C <i>Apollo 11</i></p> <p><input type="radio"/> D <i>Tranquility</i></p>	<p>4. Their spacecraft that flew to the moon was called _____.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A <i>Saturn V</i></p> <p><input type="radio"/> B <i>Apollo 11</i></p> <p><input type="radio"/> C <i>Tranquility</i></p> <p><input type="radio"/> D <i>Eagle</i></p>
<p>5. _____ astronauts landed on the moon.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Three</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Two</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C One</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Four</p>	<p>6. This article is mainly about _____.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A The Saturn V rocket</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Planning for a trip to the moon</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Planning for a vacation</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D The moon's surface</p>
<p>7. Since there wasn't much room on the spacecraft, the astronauts only packed clothes and science experiments.</p>	<p>8. Footprints on Earth usually wash away or dry up and blow away after a while. Why do you think the astronauts' footprints are probably still on the moon?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

