

First Moon Landing

On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong climbed down a ladder. People watched him on their television sets. They held their breath. Step by step Neil went down. Then he stepped off the ladder. He said, “That’s one small step for man; one giant leap for mankind.” Why? Neil had just become the first human to set foot on our moon. A movie camera was on the side of the spaceship. It showed his first step. But the camera had flown through space. Its film was fuzzy.

Neil was an astronaut on the *Apollo 11* mission. There is no air on the moon. He wore a spacesuit. It gave him oxygen to breathe. The first thing Neil did was to scoop up some soil into a bag. Then he put it in his pocket. He brought a part of the moon back to Earth. Scientists wanted to study it to learn about the moon.

Neil’s spacesuit was heavy. It weighed 180 pounds! But the moon has less gravity than Earth. So there the spacesuit weighed just 30 pounds. Neil felt very light on the moon. He jumped very high.

Neil walked around on the moon, too. He saw some of the moon’s craters. Craters are big round holes. One of the moon’s craters is so large that a city the size of London, England, could fit inside it! Space rocks called meteors had slammed into the moon. That’s how these craters formed. But luckily no meteors hit while Neil was there.

Before Neil left, he put up the U.S. flag. The moon has no wind. So this flag had a special wire. It was sewn along the top and bottom edges. It made the flag look like it was flying.



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When Neil stepped onto the moon, there was no one there to take a photo. This is Buzz Aldrin coming down the ladder. Neil took this photo.



Photo Courtesy of NASA



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1. Neil Armstrong was
 - a. a doctor.
 - b. a teacher.
 - c. an astronaut.
2. While on the moon, Neil felt
 - a. heavier than on Earth.
 - b. lighter than on Earth.
 - c. the same weight as on Earth.
3. What did Neil leave on the moon?
 - a. a flag
 - b. his camera
 - c. his spacesuit
4. Neil spent all his time on the moon alone. True or False? Tell why.

5. Look at the photograph. Who is on the ladder? What is he wearing? Who took the photograph?

6. Would you like to step on our moon? Why or why not?

Answer Key *(cont.)*

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1. c 2. a 3. b
4. False. Birds began nesting on Surtsey three years after the last eruption.
5. There is a crack between Earth's two land plates. The crack is full of magma. Magma is melted rock that comes up from Earth's mantle/middle.
6. Yes, I think that it was wise that the Iceland government only let scientists go to Surtsey because they wanted to study it without being bothered by tourists; this way the island developed naturally; scientists were able to learn how a volcanic island gets plants and animals; etc. OR No, I don't think that it was wise that the Iceland government only let scientists go to Surtsey because it was unfair; other people want to learn about and see the island, too; the government could have made a lot of money letting tourists visit the world's newest island; etc.

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1. a 2. a 3. c
4. True. Black and white people also could not drink from the same fountain, use the same bathroom, eat in the same restaurants, go to the same school, or live together. (any one additional fact)
5. Janisha Johnson wrote the note to Dr. King to thank him for making it possible for kids with different skin colors to go to school together. She is glad he did because her best friend has a skin color different from her own. (It would also be correct to say that Janisha wrote the thank you note because her teacher assigned it.)
6. If I saw someone being unfair to another child, I would tell the teacher or my parents; I would tell the kid to stop being unfair; I would stand up for the child; I would make friends with the kid who was picked on; etc. OR If I saw someone being unfair to another child, I would not get involved; I would try to avoid the unfair kid; I wouldn't do anything; etc. (This is a great opportunity to discuss the appropriate action a child should take if s/he sees another child being bullied.)

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1. c 2. b 3. a
4. False. Neil was with Buzz Aldrin. There is a photo that Neil took of Buzz coming onto the moon with him.
5. Buzz Aldrin is on the ladder. He is wearing a space suit. Neil Armstrong took the photo.
6. Yes, I'd like to step on our moon because it would be exciting to go there; I'd like to experience being in space; I'd like to fly in a spaceship; I would remember it forever; I want to experience being so light that I could leap high; etc. OR No, I wouldn't like to step on our moon because I wouldn't like to go where there is no air and I have to wear a spacesuit to breathe; I would be afraid to go up in a spaceship; there's nothing interesting to do there; etc.

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1. b 2. c 3. b
4. True. The world's largest desert is the Sahara Desert. It is in Africa.
5. The two deserts that are about the same size are the Pantagonian and Karakum Deserts. The smallest desert is the Atacama Desert.
6. Yes, I would like to visit a desert because I think it would be pretty; I enjoy heat; I want to see what it's like there; etc. OR No, I would not like to visit a desert because I don't like heat; I think seeing endless amount of sand would be dull; there's nothing exciting to do there; etc.

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1. c 2. a 3. b
4. False. The North Pole is located near the middle of the Arctic Circle. OR False. The South Pole is located at the opposite end of Earth from the Arctic Circle.
5. The Arctic ground squirrel eats roots and seeds. It sleeps, or hibernates, for nine months each year.
6. Yes I would like to visit the tundra because it sounds like an interesting place; I'd like to see how the animals and people live there; I like the winter; I want to experience being where the sun doesn't set or rise for a month each year; etc. OR No, I wouldn't like to visit the tundra because it