5TH GRADE READING · NONFICTION

# The Moon Landing



Name _____ Date _____

Nonfiction | 202 words | Relationships between events

**I read it:** ☆ to myself ☆ to a grown-up ☆ to a friend

1 In 1961, President John F. Kennedy set a bold goal: the United States would land astronauts on the moon and bring them safely home before the end of the 1960s. At the time, no American had even **orbited** Earth. Reaching the moon would take eight years, thousands of workers and a giant leap in technology.

2 NASA built the Saturn V, a rocket taller than a 30-story building. Engineers designed a spacecraft in three parts: a command **module** where the crew would live, a service **module** with fuel and supplies, and a lunar **module** that could land on the moon and lift off again.

3 On July 16, 1969, Apollo 11 blasted off from Florida with Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins aboard. Four days later, while Collins circled the moon in the command **module,** Armstrong and Aldrin landed the lunar **module,** called the Eagle. Armstrong stepped onto the dusty surface and said, “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for **mankind.”**

4 The astronauts collected rocks, set up experiments and planted a flag. Then they rejoined Collins and returned to Earth, splashing down in the Pacific Ocean on July 24. Kennedy’s goal had been met, with five months to spare.

**How did I do?** ☆ ☆ ☆

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# The Moon Landing: questions

Name _____ Date _____

🎯 **I can find answers in the text. Look back at the text to check.**

## 1 Circle the best answer

**1. What goal did Kennedy set in 1961?**

(a) send a robot to Mars (b) land people on the moon (c) build a space station

**2. Who stayed in the command module?**

(a) Michael Collins (b) Buzz Aldrin (c) Neil Armstrong

**3. Why did the lunar module matter?**

(a) it could land and lift off (b) it splashed down (c) it carried the fuel

## 2 True or false? Circle one.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Apollo 11 launched from Florida. | True | False |
| Buzz Aldrin was the first person on the moon. | True | False |
| The goal was met before the end of the 1960s. | True | False |

**How did I do?** ☆ ☆ ☆

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# The Moon Landing: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

## 1 Match each word to its meaning. Draw a line.

| | |
|---|---|
| orbited | all people |
| module | one part of a spacecraft |
| mankind | traveled in a path around a planet or moon |

## 2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

**Explain how Kennedy's goal in 1961 led to the events of July 1969.**

## 3 Draw and label something you learned.

**How did I do?** ☆ ☆ ☆

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FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

# Answer key: The Moon Landing

## 1 Circle the best answer

1. b) land people on the moon
2. a) Michael Collins
3. a) it could land and lift off

## 2 True or false

True: Apollo 11 launched from Florida.

False: Buzz Aldrin was the first person on the moon.

True: The goal was met before the end of the 1960s.

## 3 Word meanings

orbited: traveled in a path around a planet or moon

module: one part of a spacecraft

mankind: all people

## 4 Written answer (sample) 💡

His goal pushed NASA to build the Saturn V and a three-part spacecraft. Eight years later, Apollo 11 used them to land on the moon.



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