Neil Armstrong was an American astronaut who was famous for being the first person to walk on the Moon.

His Early Life

Neil Armstrong was born on 5th August 1930, in the USA. His passion for flying began at a young age. When he was two years old, his parents took him to Cleveland Air Race which was where he saw his first ever aircraft. At the age of six, Neil was taken by his dad for a ride in an aeroplane. He worked hard to achieve his dream of being a pilot: Armstrong was only 16 years old when he received his first pilot's licence, before he could even drive a car!

Fun Facts

- · He was a keen Boy Scout.
- He suffered from travel sickness as a child, but was fine in space!

In September 1962, Neil Armstrong was accepted to the NASA astronaut corps, where he knew he might one day go in to space. Amazingly, during his career he flew over two hundred different aircraft!

The Moon Landing

Finally, everything was ready! On 16th July 1969, at 13:32, Neil Armstrong and his crew mates Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin and Michael Collins blasted off into space.

Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the Moon on 20th July 1969. It was shown all across the world on television. It is estimated that 600 million people watched the astronauts make history.









During their moonwalk, Armstrong and Aldrin planted the flag of the United States of America. They also spent time collecting moon rocks from the surface. The astronauts returned home to Earth on 24th July 1969.

Later Life

After he had returned home, Armstrong retired from being an astronaut.

However, his enthusiasm for space and aircraft continued and he became a professor in order to share his passion.

Famous Words

Neil Armstrong died on 25th August 2012 at the age of 82. He will always be remembered for his famous words: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

Did You Know...?

There is no wind on the Moon so the astronauts' footprints will still be there right now, nearly fifty years later!





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In 1969, Neil Armstrong became a worldwide name and a hero. He was the first person to walk on the Moon.

His Early Life

Neil Armstrong was born on 5th August 1930, in the state of Ohio in the USA. His passion for flying blossomed at a young age. When he was two years old, his parents took him to Cleveland Air Race which was where he saw his first ever aircraft up close. At the age of six, Neil was taken by his dad for a ride in an aeroplane. He worked hard to achieve his dream of being a pilot: Armstrong was only 16 years old when he received his first pilot's licence, before he could even drive a car!

Fun Facts

- He was an eager Boy Scout and earned the rank of Eagle Scout!
- As a child, he suffered from travel sickness, but luckily he was absolutely fine on the journey to the Moon!
- He loved making model aircraft in his spare time.

During his long career, Neil Armstrong flew more than two hundred different aircraft.

His strengths were being resilient and calm under pressure so he was excellent at flying in very dangerous situations. As a result, in September 1962, he was accepted to the NASA astronaut corps.

The Moon Landing

Finally, everything was ready! On 16th July 1969, at 13:32, the powerful Saturn V rocket blasted Neil Armstrong and his crew mates Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin and Michael Collins into space. It was a long journey to the Moon that took over three days!





Four days later, Armstrong and Aldrin landed on the Moon. They landed in the lunar module, called 'the Eagle'. Collins stayed in orbit, doing experiments and taking photographs. Finally, following checks and preparation, on 20th July 1969, they opened the hatch of the Eagle. The Moon landing was shown all across the world on television. It is estimated that 600 million people watched. As he stepped off the ladder, he was heard to say, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

During their moonwalk, Armstrong and Aldrin planted the flag of the United States of America. They also spent time collecting moon rocks from the surface and brought them back to Earth to be studied. The astronauts arrived home on Earth on 24th July 1969.



Later Life

After he had returned home, Armstrong retired from being an astronaut. However, his enthusiasm for space and aircraft continued and he became a professor in order to share his passion. Neil Armstrong died on 25th August 2012 at the age of 82.

Did You Know...?

There is no wind on the Moon so the astronauts' footprints will still be there right now, nearly fifty years later, and perhaps for millions of years to come!







In July 1969, Neil Armstrong became a hero, a national treasure and worldwide name. He was the American astronaut who was the first person to ever set foot on the surface of the Moon.

His Early Life

Neil Armstrong was born on 5th August 1930, in the state of Ohio in the USA, the eldest of three children. He developed a passion for aviation from a young age. His first experience of aircraft was when his parents took him to Cleveland Air Race as a toddler. At the age of six, he flew for the first time with his father. As a teenager, he took flying lessons which he paid for himself by working at a local chemist. He practised and persevered. Consequently, by 16 years old he had achieved his first pilot's licence, before he could even drive a car!

Fun Facts

- Neil Armstrong was a committed Boy Scout and earned the rank of Eagle Scout!
- He loved making model aircraft in his spare time.
- As a child, he suffered from travel sickness, but fortunately he did not experience space sickness.

During his career in aviation, Neil Armstrong flew more than two hundred different aircraft! He was renowned for being resilient and calm under pressure, strengths which helped him to fly in very dangerous situations. It was in September 1962 that he was accepted to the NASA astronaut corps, which would eventually lead to the very difficult job of landing on the Moon!

The Moon Landing

Finally, everything was ready! On 16th July 1969, at 13:32, the powerful Saturn V rocket blasted Neil Armstrong and his crew





mates Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin and Michael Collins into space. It was a long journey to the Moon which lasted over three days.

Once they arrived, the crew split up. Armstrong and Aldrin climbed into the lunar module, called 'the Eagle', to begin the descent to the Moon's surface. Collins stayed in orbit, doing experiments and taking photographs. Finally, following checks and preparation, on 20th July 1969, Neil and Buzz opened the Eagle's hatch. The Moon landing was shown all across the world on television to an estimated audience of 600 million people. As he stepped off the ladder, on to the Moon's surface, Armstrong was heard to say, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

After landing, Armstrong and Aldrin had a moonwalk around the landing site where they planted the flag of the United States of America. They also spent time collecting moon rocks from the surface so they could be studied back on Earth.

The astronauts arrived home on Earth on 24th July 1969 where they were quarantined (put in isolation) in case of infectious diseases or illnesses before being released to tour the country.

Later Life

After he had returned home, Armstrong retired from being an astronaut. However, his enthusiasm for space and aircraft continued and he became a professor in order to share his passion.

Neil Armstrong died on 25th August 2012, aged 82.

Did You Know...?

- A modern smartphone is several thousand times more powerful than the computers used for Apollo 11!
- The Saturn V rocket was the largest rocket ever built, standing at 111 metres tall! It was higher than the Statue of Liberty and taller than many tower blocks!



