

Key Vocabulary

United States of America (USA) – a country in North America

Astronaut – a person specially trained to travel into outer space

President John F Kennedy – the 35th president of the USA

Neil Armstrong – a famous American astronaut and the first man to step on the moon

Buzz Aldrin – a famous American astronaut and the second man to walk on the moon

Michael Collins – a famous American astronaut who piloted the command module of the Apollo 11

Apollo 11 – the spacecraft that carried the first men to the moon

N.A.S.A – the North Aeronautics and Space Administration – the agency responsible for the American space programme

Kennedy Space Centre – NASA's main launch centre in Florida, USA

Soviet Union (USSR) – a country that spanned much of Europe and Asia for a large part of the 20th century

Space Race - a competition between the USA and USSR during the Cold War to see which country would put the first spacecraft into orbit and put the first person on the moon

Cold War – a period of tension between the USA and USSR that started after World War II, as the two countries became rivals

Superpower – a country with great international power and influence

International Space Station - a large spacecraft in orbit around Earth – it serves as a home where crews of astronauts live

Mission - an important task or goal that one is sent out to do

Orbit – the way something goes around an object in space (the astronauts orbited around the Moon)

Launch – to throw something forward (to launch a rocket)

Mankind - all people, as a group

Conspiracy theory - a belief that a secret group is controlling events behind the scenes. Examples include the moon landing being fake and the suggestion that the earth is actually flat! Conspiracy theories aren't necessarily true, with many lacking real evidence, but they can be influential

Core Knowledge

- After World War II, the two superpowers the USSR and the USA were engaged in an unfriendly competition to be the best. This was called the Cold War. Each superpower wanted to put the first person on the moon because they thought it would make them look the most powerful. The American president John Kennedy was determined to make this happen first. This was called the 'space race'.
- In July, 1969 NASA launched the Saturn V rocket from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, USA.
- The Apollo 11 mission took 4 days to reach the moon. The astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin climbed in the Eagle Lunar Module and landed on the moon. Michael Collins remained on board.
- Whilst on the moon, the astronauts collected rock samples, took photographs and planted an American flag!
- Whilst on the moon, Neil Armstrong reported back to Earth and commented: *'That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind!'*
- The moon landing was important because it helped us learn a lot about space, the moon, and our planet Earth. The moon landing made people around the world excited and proud, and it proved that we could explore places far beyond our planet!



