

Text 16 When did people first land on the moon?

Putting Men on the Moon



Have you ever heard of the “space race”? It sounds like a game, but it was not. The “space race” was a kind of contest between the United States and the Soviet Union. Both countries wanted to be the first to send people into outer space.



Both the Soviet Union and the United States sent rockets into space in the 1950s, but not people. Then in 1961, a man from the Soviet Union became the first person to travel in space. Yuri Gagarin went around Earth in a spaceship. He was in space for 108 minutes as he orbited Earth.



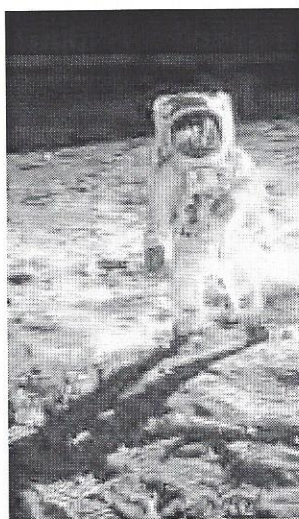
People in the United States were unhappy. They had hoped an American would be first in space. Soon President John F. Kennedy announced that Americans would be the first to land on the moon. He said they would get there by 1970.



Landing on the moon hardly seemed possible at the time. Only one American had ever traveled in space and for only 15 minutes. A trip to the moon and back would

take eight days! But President Kennedy’s promise was kept.

On July 16, 1969, a huge white rocket blasted off from the United States. It was carrying a spacecraft called *Apollo 11*. In the spacecraft were three U.S. astronauts: Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Buzz Aldrin. They had been in training for many months. Now they were heading for the moon.



Apollo 11 traveled quickly through space. On the fourth day, it was near the moon. Armstrong and Aldrin put on spacesuits. They crawled into the *Eagle*. That was their landing craft. It would leave the command ship and land on the moon.

Collins stayed in the command ship. He orbited the moon while

the *Eagle* went in for a landing. Armstrong and Aldrin watched the moon getting closer and closer. Finally Armstrong eased the landing craft down. He used his radio to tell people on Earth, “The *Eagle* has landed.” He and Aldrin stepped out into a strange new world. They were walking on the moon!



1. Who was the first person to travel into space?
 - (A) Buzz Aldrin
 - (B) Neil Armstrong
 - (C) Michael Collins
 - (D) Yuri Gagarin

2. The article says, "He orbited Earth." What does orbited mean?
 - (F) went to
 - (G) left
 - (H) went around
 - (J) watched

3. Which men walked on the moon in 1969? Write their names.

4. Which of these things did Neil Armstrong do first?
 - (A) eased the *Eagle* down on the moon
 - (B) put on a spacesuit
 - (C) used his radio to talk to people on Earth
 - (D) crawled into the *Eagle*

5. Write a summary of *Apollo 11's* trip to the moon.

