

The Moon Times

Flight to the Moon and Back...

On the 20th of July 1969, Neil A. Armstrong became the first man to step on the moon.

On the 20th of July, the human race celebrated a huge achievement in getting a man to walk upon another celestial object, the moon. Both Neil Armstrong and 'Buzz' Aldren spent 21 hours on the moon where they made history.



But how did they get up there? It was all thanks to the spacecraft Apollo 11 (which is also known as the Eagle) which flew them to the surface of the moon. Three days after the crew had flown out to space, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldren flew the module down to the moon. This they did with only a few seconds to spare as the spacecraft had only 20 seconds worth of fuel left to run on. 600 million people watched this historic moment as the Apollo 11 carried cameras which broadcasted TV pictures of the astronauts stepping down to the celestial object.



Whilst on the moon, the two historic figures had to collect as much information as they could about the moon. They spent almost 22 hours on the moon, 2.5 of which were spent outside of the eagle. In this time, they collected rock and soil samples, set up experiments and took many pictures of their surroundings. Buzz Aldren said the moon's surface was a fine talcum powder that was quite like dust and there were many rocks and pebbles laid around. They also found out that the moon doesn't rise, instead the earth rises over the moon's horizon.

As a reminder of the accomplishment, the astronauts left an American flag on the surface of the moon. Their footprints were also left on the surface of the moon. This is because there is no wind, rain or air on the moon so nothing would disturb them.



Neil Armstrong's first words on the moon were, "that's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

"Houston, Tranquillity Base here. The Eagle has landed." This is what Buzz Aldren told Nasa Mission Control Centre in Texas, telling them that they had safely landed Apollo 11.

By Mia Rahman, 21st July 1969