

# Neil Armstrong

Neil Alden Armstrong was an American astronaut who worked for NASA. He is best known for becoming the first man to walk on the Moon in July 1969.

## His Early Life

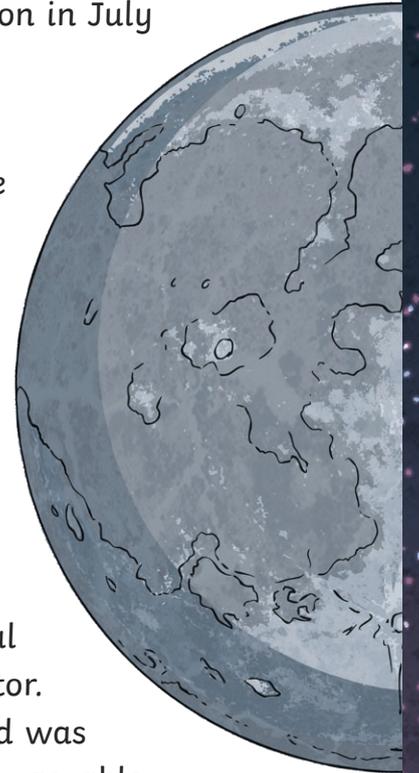
Neil was born on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1930 in the state of Ohio, USA. He was the eldest of three children. Neil developed an interest in flying at a young age when his father took him to the National Air Races as a toddler. At the age of six, he flew for the first time with his father. As a teenager, Neil had a part-time job and he used the money he made to pay for flying lessons. He earned his student pilot certificate on his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday and began flying alone soon after – all before he had a licence to drive a car!

At the age of 17, Neil attended university to study aeronautical engineering. He then went on to join the US Navy as an aviator. Throughout his career, Neil flew more than 200 aircraft and was renowned for being calm and resilient, meaning that he was able to fly in difficult situations. In September 1962, Neil was accepted to the NASA Astronaut Corps; this would eventually lead to the task of landing on the Moon.

## The Moon Landing

On 16<sup>th</sup> July 1969 at 1:32 p.m., the powerful Saturn V rocket left the launch pad carrying Neil Armstrong and his crew mates (Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin and Michael Collins) into space for the Apollo 11 mission. The journey to the Moon took over three days.

Once they reached the Moon's orbit, each astronaut took on a different job. Michael remained in the rocket completing science experiments and taking photographs while Neil and Buzz entered the lunar module (nicknamed The Eagle) to travel to the Moon's surface.



## Neil Armstrong

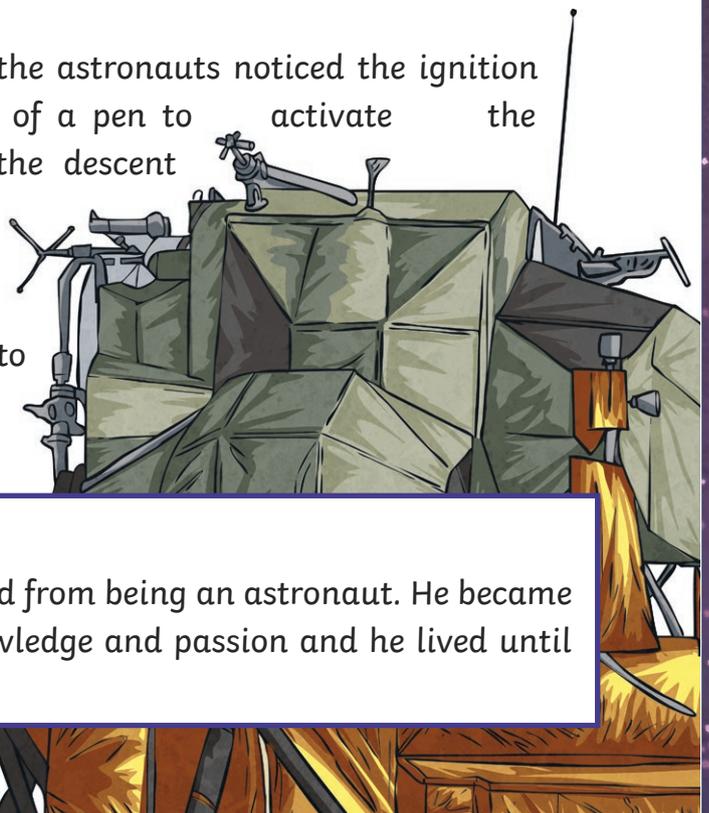


During the descent, Neil noticed they were heading to an unsafe landing area so he took manual control of The Eagle; this took longer than expected and meant that they were running low on fuel by the time they landed on the surface of the Moon. At this point, Neil uttered the words, "Tranquillity Base here. The Eagle has landed."

On 20<sup>th</sup> July 1969, Neil made his way down The Eagle's ladder. With around 600 million people watching on television, Neil set his left foot on the surface of the Moon.

He was heard to say the now famous words, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Buzz joined Neil and they completed various missions, including planting the flag of the United States. They spent two and a half hours on the Moon; their time was limited because NASA were unsure how long their spacesuits would be able to cope with the high temperatures (up to 100 degrees Celsius) on the Moon.

When it was time to leave the Moon, the astronauts noticed the ignition switch was broken so they used part of a pen to activate the launch sequence. The remainder of the descent to Earth went smoothly and the astronauts arrived home on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1969. Following 18 days in isolation in case of infection, they were released to tour the country.



### Later Life

Soon after returning home, Neil retired from being an astronaut. He became a professor in order to share his knowledge and passion and he lived until the age of 82.

# Questions

1. When was Neil Armstrong born? Tick **one**.

- 5<sup>th</sup> August 1930  
 16<sup>th</sup> July 1969  
 20<sup>th</sup> July 1969  
 24<sup>th</sup> July 1969

2. Join the boxes to match each date to the important event that happened on it.

September 1962
16 <sup>th</sup> July 1969
20 <sup>th</sup> July 1969

Neil became the first person on the Moon.
Neil was accepted to the NASA Astronaut Corps.
The Apollo 11 mission began.

3. List **two** things that helped Neil to be able to fly in difficult situations.

---



---

4. Who took part in the Apollo 11 mission with Neil?

---

5. **Find** and **copy one** phrase from the **Moon Landing** section which tells you that the The Eagle didn't land automatically.

---

6. Why were NASA unsure how long the spacesuits would cope with the high temperatures on the Moon?

---



---

7. Why do you think around 600 million people watched the events on television?

---



---

8. In your opinion, which part of the mission was the most dangerous? Explain your answer.

---



---



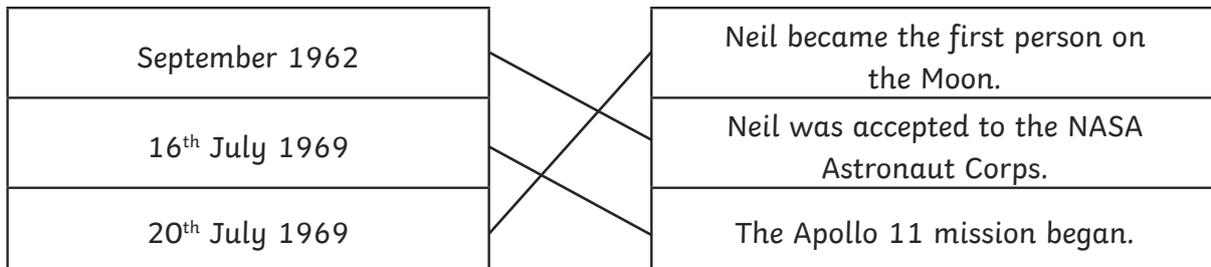
---

# Answers

1. When was Neil Armstrong born? Tick **one**.

- 5<sup>th</sup> August 1930**  
 16<sup>th</sup> July 1969  
 20<sup>th</sup> July 1969  
 24<sup>th</sup> July 1969

2. Join the boxes to match each date to the important event that happened on it.



3. List **two** things that helped Neil to be able to fly in difficult situations.

**calmness**

**resilience**

4. Who took part in the Apollo 11 mission with Neil?

**Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin and Michael Collins took part in the Apollo 11 mission with Neil.**

5. **Find and copy one** phrase from the **Moon Landing** section which tells you that the The Eagle didn't land automatically.

**he took manual control**

6. Why were NASA unsure how long the spacesuits would cope with the high temperatures on the Moon?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: NASA were unsure about this because nobody had ever been to the Moon before; although they had completed tests, NASA could not know for definite how safe the spacesuits were.**

7. Why do you think around 600 million people watched the events on television?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that 600 million people watched on television because this was the first time anyone had been to the Moon so it was a unique and exciting thing to watch.**

8. In your opinion, which part of the mission was the most dangerous? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that landing the lunar module on the Moon was the most dangerous part of the mission because they had to find a safe landing spot and the module was running out of fuel.**

# Neil Armstrong

Neil Alden Armstrong (an American astronaut working for NASA) is best known for becoming the first man to walk on the Moon in July 1969.

## His Early Life

Born on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1930 in the state of Ohio, USA, Neil was the eldest of three children to Stephen Koenig Armstrong and Viola Louise. He developed an interest in flying at a young age when his father took him to the National Air Races as a toddler. At the age of six, Neil flew for the first time with his father. As a teenager, Neil had a part-time job and used the money he earned to pay for flying lessons. He earned his student pilot certificate on his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday and flew solo soon after – all before he had a licence to drive a car!

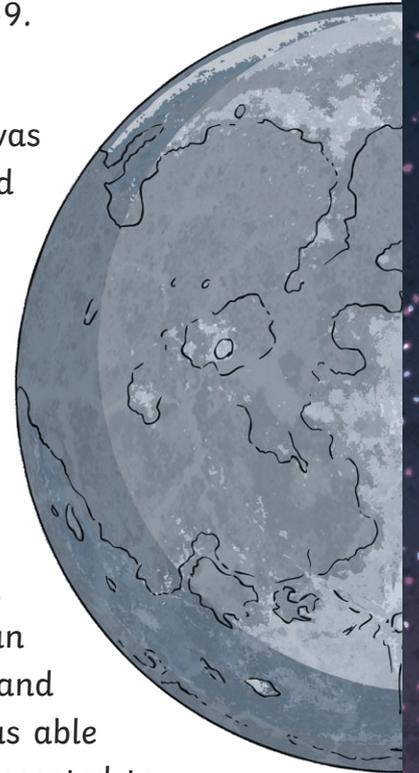
At the age of 17, Neil attended university to study **aeronautical engineering** and then went on to join the US Navy as an aviator. During his career, Neil flew more than 200 aircraft and was renowned for being calm and resilient, meaning he was able to fly in difficult situations. In September 1962, Neil was accepted to the **NASA** Astronaut Corps, which would eventually lead to the exciting task of landing on the Moon.

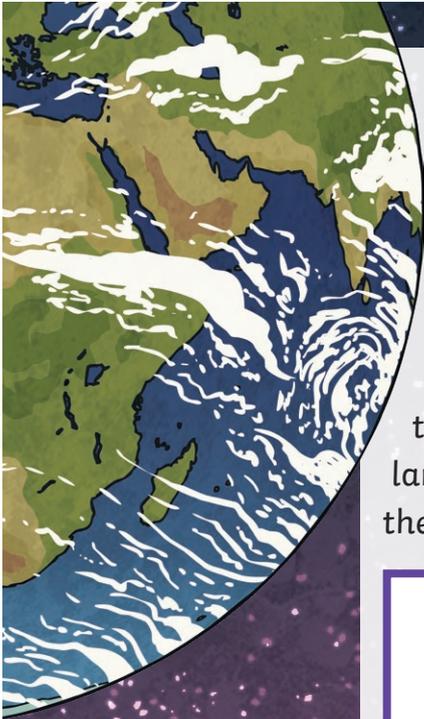
## The Moon Landing

After carrying out much training and many trial missions, the day had arrived. On 16<sup>th</sup> July 1969 at 1:32 p.m., the powerful Saturn V rocket left the launch pad and carried Neil Armstrong and his crew mates, Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin and Michael Collins, into space for the Apollo 11 mission. The journey to the Moon took over three days to complete. During the journey, the astronauts were able to contact Earth.

### Did You Know...?

None of the Apollo 11 crew suffered from space sickness as some members of previous crews had. Neil was especially glad about this as he had been prone to travel sickness as a child.





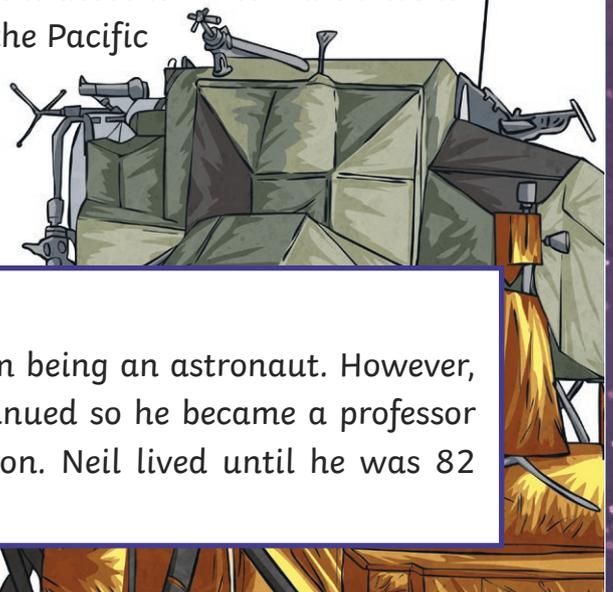
Once they reached the Moon's orbit, Michael remained in the rocket completing science experiments and taking photographs while Neil and Buzz entered the **lunar module** (nicknamed The Eagle) to descend to the Moon's surface. The descent did not go smoothly; when Neil noticed they were heading to an unsafe landing area, he took manual control of The Eagle and this took longer than expected. This meant that the module was running low on fuel by the time they landed on the surface of the Moon. At this point, Neil uttered the words, "**Tranquillity Base** here. The Eagle has landed."

### Did You Know...?

The Moon landing was shown on television around the world and viewed by an estimated 600 million people.

Finally, following rest, checks and preparation, the astronauts opened the hatch on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1969 and Neil made his way down the ladder first. As Neil set his left foot on the surface of the Moon, he was heard saying the now famous words, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Buzz joined Neil after around 19 minutes and they completed various missions, including planting the flag of the United States. The pair spent two and a half hours on the Moon; this time was limited because NASA were unsure how long the spacesuits would cope with the high temperatures (up to 100 degrees Celsius) on the Moon.

When it was time to leave the Moon, the astronauts noticed the ignition switch was broken so they used part of a pen pushed into the circuit breaker to activate the launch sequence. The remainder of the descent to Earth went smoothly and the astronauts arrived home, in the Pacific Ocean, on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1969. Following 18 days in quarantine in case of infection, they were released to tour the country.



### Later Life

Soon after returning home, Neil retired from being an astronaut. However, his enthusiasm for space and aircraft continued so he became a professor in order to share his knowledge and passion. Neil lived until he was 82 years old.

## Glossary

**aeronautical engineering:** The primary field of engineering concerned with the development of aircraft and spacecraft.

**lunar module:** A small craft used for travelling between the Moon's surface and an orbiting spacecraft.

**NASA:** Abbreviation of National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

**quarantine:** Isolation in case of infection.

**Tranquillity Base:** The site on the Moon where humans landed and walked for the first time.



# Questions

1. What were the names of the other astronauts on the Apollo 11 mission? Tick **two**.

- Stephen Koenig Armstrong
- Viola Louise
- Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin
- Michael Collins

2. Join the boxes to match each fact to the section of the text it appears in.

Neil flew more than 200 aircraft.
Neil became a professor in order to share his knowledge and passion.
Neil said, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

Early Life
The Moon Landing
Later Life

3. **Find** and **copy one** word or phrase from **The Moon Landing** section which tells you that things didn't all go to plan.

---

4. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

Due to high \_\_\_\_\_ on the Moon, NASA limited the time spent there to \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Give **three** things that Neil did as a teenager.

---



---



---

6. Why do you think Neil wanted to join NASA?

---



---

7. In your own words, explain what is meant by **quarantine**.

---



---

8. How do you think it would have felt to watch someone walk on the Moon for the first time live on television? Explain your answer.

---

---

---

9. Why do you think the astronauts planted a flag of the United States on the Moon?

---

---

---

# Answers

1. What were the names of the other astronauts on the Apollo 11 mission? Tick **two**.

- Stephen Koenig Armstrong
- Viola Louise
- Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin**
- Michael Collins**

2. Join the boxes to match each fact to the section of the text it appears in.

Neil flew more than 200 aircraft.		Early Life
Neil became a professor in order to share his knowledge and passion.		The Moon Landing
Neil said, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."		Later Life

3. **Find and copy one** word or phrase from **The Moon Landing** section which tells you that things didn't all go to plan.

**Accept any one of the following: didn't go smoothly; this took longer than expected; the ignition switch was broken. Also accept 'The remainder of the descent to Earth went smoothly' as this shows a change in fortune.**

4. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

Due to high **temperatures** on the Moon, NASA limited the time spent there to **two and a half hours**.

5. Give **three** things that Neil did as a teenager.

**Accept any three of the following: Neil had a part-time job; he had flying lessons; he earned his student pilot certificate; he flew solo in a plane; he attended university to study aeronautical engineering.**

6. Why do you think Neil wanted to join NASA?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Neil wanted to join NASA because he had an interest in flying from a young age and was a calm and resilient aviator.**

7. In your own words, explain what is meant by **quarantine**.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Quarantine is a period of segregation due to the risk of disease.**

8. How do you think it would have felt to watch someone walk on the Moon for the first time live on television? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that I would have been fascinated and nervous because it was the first time it has ever happened so nobody knew how safe it was going to be.**

9. Why do you think the astronauts planted a flag of the United States on the Moon?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the astronauts planted this flag as a memento of their visit to the Moon which any future astronauts would be able to see.**

# Neil Armstrong

Best known for becoming the first man to walk on the Moon in July 1969, Neil Alden Armstrong was an American astronaut working for NASA.

## His Early Life

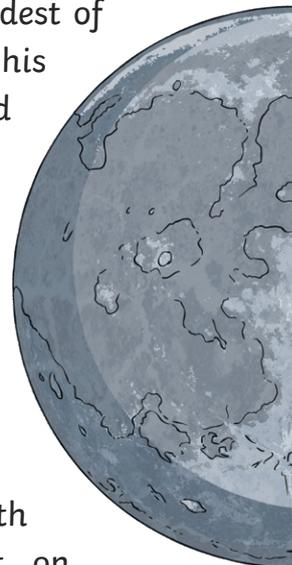
Born on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1930 in the state of Ohio, USA, Neil was the eldest of three children to Stephen Koenig Armstrong and Viola Louise. When his father took him to the National Air Races as a toddler, Neil developed a keen interest in flying and, at the age of six, flew for the first time with his father. At this point in his life, Neil was prone to travel sickness! As a teenager, Neil had a part-time job at a local chemist and used the money he earned to pay for flying lessons. He earned his student pilot certificate on his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday and began soloing soon after – all before he had a licence to drive a car!

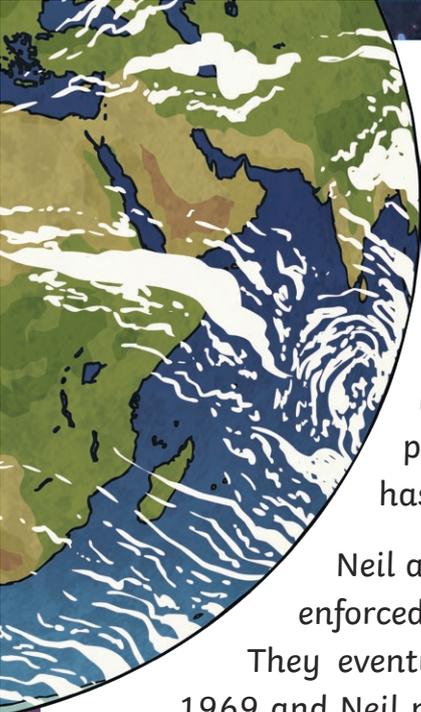
At the age of 17, Neil attended university to study aeronautical engineering (the primary field of engineering concerned with the development of aircraft and spacecraft) and then went on to join the US Navy as an aviator. During his career, Neil flew more than 200 aircraft and was renowned for having composure and resilience, meaning he was able to fly in difficult situations. In September 1962, Neil was accepted to the NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Astronaut Corps, which would eventually lead to the exciting task of landing on the Moon.

## The Moon Landing

After carrying out significant training and many trial missions, the day had finally arrived for the Apollo 11 mission. On 16<sup>th</sup> July 1969 at 1:32 p.m., the powerful Saturn V rocket left the launch pad carrying Neil Armstrong and his crew mates, Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin and Michael Collins, into space. The long journey to the Moon's orbit (384,400km) took over three days, during which none of the Apollo 11 crew suffered from space sickness (some members of previous crews had). Neil was especially glad about this! During the journey, the astronauts were able to contact Earth.

On reaching the Moon's orbit, Michael remained in the rocket completing science experiments and taking photographs while Neil and Buzz entered the lunar module (a small craft used for travelling between the Moon's surface and an orbiting spacecraft).





This lunar module was nicknamed The Eagle and Neil and Buzz used The Eagle to descend to the Moon's surface. The descent, however, did not go smoothly; when Neil noticed they were heading to an unsafe landing area, he decided to take manual control of The Eagle. This took longer than expected and meant that the module was running low on fuel by the time they landed on the surface of the Moon. At this point, Neil uttered the words, "Tranquillity Base here. The Eagle has landed."

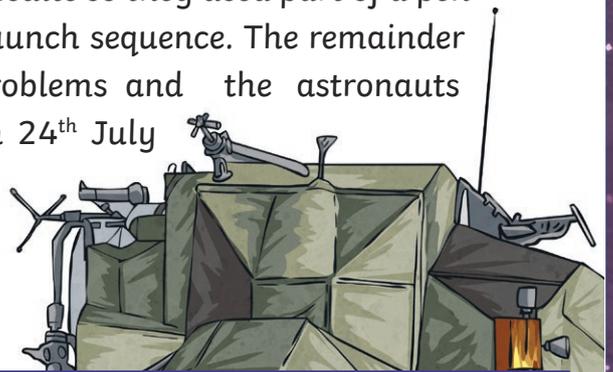
Neil and Buzz were keen to get straight out of the module but NASA enforced a delay for rest, checks and preparation.

They eventually opened the hatch on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1969 and Neil made his way down the ladder first.

The Moon landing was shown on television around the world and viewed by an estimated 600 million people who watched in awe as Neil set his left foot on the surface of the Moon and announced, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Limited to two and a half hours on the Moon (due to NASA's uncertainty regarding how long the spacesuits would cope with the Moon's high temperatures), the two astronauts completed various missions, including planting the flag of the United States.



Upon re-entering the lunar module, the astronauts noticed they had accidentally broken the ignition switch with their bulky spacesuits so they used part of a pen pushed into the circuit breaker to activate the launch sequence. The remainder of the descent to Earth went without any problems and the astronauts arrived home, landing in the Pacific Ocean, on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1969. Following 18 days in quarantine in case of infection, they were released to tour the country where they received much praise and admiration.



### Later Life

Soon after returning home, Neil retired from being an astronaut. His enthusiasm for space and aircraft, however, continued so he became a professor in order to share his knowledge and passion with future generations. Neil lived until he was 82 years old.

# Questions

1. What did Neil do as a teenager? Tick all that apply.

- He went to the National Air Races.
- He attended university.
- He worked in a chemist.
- He earned his student pilot certificate.

2. **Neil... was renowned for having composure and resilience...**

What do **composure** and **resilience** mean? Tick **one**.

- ideas and perseverance
- dedication and courage
- calmness and strength
- happiness and determination

3. **...they used part of a pen pushed into the circuit breaker to activate the launch sequence.**

What does **activate** mean?

---

4. List **two** things that Neil did after he returned to Earth.

---

---

5. **Find** and **copy one** word or phrase from the text which shows that Neil was enthusiastic about flight and space.

---

6. Do you think that Neil had a typical childhood? Explain your answer.

---

---

7. Why do you think that Neil's training took so long?

---

---

8. Why was Neil especially glad not to suffer space sickness?

---

---

---

9. Do you think Neil would have been a good professor? Explain your answer.

---

---

---

10. Would you like to travel to the Moon? Give two reasons to support your answer.

---

---

---

# Answers

1. What did Neil do as a teenager? Tick all that apply.

- He went to the National Air Races.
- He attended university.**
- He worked in a chemist.**
- He earned his student pilot certificate.**

2. **Neil... was renowned for having composure and resilience...**

What do **composure** and **resilience** mean? Tick **one**.

- ideas and perseverance
- dedication and courage
- calmness and strength**
- happiness and determination

3. **...they used part of a pen pushed into the circuit breaker to activate the launch sequence.**

What does **activate** mean?

**start**

4. List **two** things that Neil did after he returned to Earth.

**Accept any two of the following: Neil retired from being an astronaut; he became a professor; he was placed into quarantine; he lived a long life.**

5. **Find** and **copy one** word or phrase from the text which shows that Neil was enthusiastic about flight and space.

**Accept any one of the following: keen interest; passion.**

6. Do you think that Neil had a typical childhood? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: No, I do not think that Neil had a typical childhood because most children do not begin flying a plane as a child and gain their student pilot certificate at an early age.**

7. Why do you think that Neil's training took so long?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Neil's training took a long time because they were the first astronauts to set foot on the Moon; they will have had had to complete lots of different training to prepare them for anything that might go wrong during the mission.**

8. Why was Neil especially glad not to suffer space sickness?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Neil was especially glad not to suffer from space sickness as he had been prone to travel sickness as a child so was worried that he might have got sick in the spacecraft.**

9. Do you think Neil would have been a good professor? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think he would have been an excellent professor because he was passionate and also had lots of experience to share with his students.**

10. Would you like to travel to the Moon? Give two reasons to support your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I would not like to travel to the Moon because I think I would get space sick and I would be worried about things going wrong, such as not having enough fuel to get back to the rocket.**