

Questions

1. On which day did Neil Armstrong walk on the Moon? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 21st July 1969
- ☐ 20th July 1930
- ☐ 20th July 1969
- ☐ 5th August 1930

2. Which statements describing Neil Armstrong are true? Tick **two**.

- ☐ He passed his pilot's licence aged 17.
- ☐ He paid for flying lessons himself by working after school.
- ☐ He was known for having a temper and losing control.
- ☐ He flew fighter planes in the Navy.

3. Fill in the missing words.

Neil Armstrong's _____ trip into space almost ended in _____.

4. Find and copy a phrase to show that something was about to go wrong with the Gemini 8 mission.

5. What did Neil Armstrong do in order to save his and his co-pilot's lives on the Gemini 8 mission?

6. Why has the author described Armstrong's Moon landing as the '**greatest challenge of his career**'?

7. Why do you think preparing for the trip to the Moon took three years, following the Gemini 8 close call?

8. Using evidence from the text, explain why you think Neil Armstrong was chosen as the pilot for the dangerous mission to the Moon.

Answers

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- ☒ **20th July 1969**
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2. Which statements describing Neil Armstrong are true? Tick **two**.

- ☐ He passed his pilot's licence aged 17.
- ☒ **He paid for flying lessons himself by working after school.**
- ☐ He was known for having a temper and losing control.
- ☒ **He flew fighter planes in the Navy.**

3. Fill in the missing words.

Neil Armstrong's **first** trip into space almost ended in **disaster**.

4. Find and copy a phrase to show that something was about to go wrong with the Gemini 8 mission.

trouble was brewing

5. What did Neil Armstrong do in order to save his and his co-pilot's lives on the Gemini 8 mission?

He pressed the button to power the back-up thrusters.

6. Why has the author described Armstrong's Moon landing as the '**greatest challenge of his career**'?

Pupils' own responses that show an understanding of the difficulty and challenge involved in landing on the surface of the Moon. It was the 'ultimate test of control' and he had to carefully pilot the Eagle and avoid a crater. It was hardest thing he had ever done in his life.

7. Why do you think preparing for the trip to the Moon took three years, following the Gemini 8 close call?

Pupils' own responses that recognise that improvements had to be made following the close call with Gemini 8. There were 'countless tests' to ensure that the mission was as safe as possible.

8. Using evidence from the text, explain why you think Neil Armstrong was chosen as the pilot for the dangerous mission to the Moon.

Pupils' own responses that include characteristics mentioned in the text such as being calm and controlled in a crisis and how he showed quick-thinking during the Gemini 8 mission, and understanding that these skills would be useful in flying to the Moon.

Questions

1. What happened on 20th July 1969? **Tick two.**

- ☐ An American astronaut was born.
- ☐ Neil Armstrong became the first person to walk on the Moon.
- ☐ About 600 million people watched an incredible piece of history on TV.
- ☐ Buzz Aldrin stepped on to the surface of the Moon by himself.

2. **Armstrong devoted hours to his passion.**

Which word below is most similar in meaning to **devoted**? **Tick one.**

- ☐ wasted
- ☐ lost
- ☐ voted
- ☐ dedicated

3. **Find and copy** two qualities that describe Neil Armstrong.

1. _____
2. _____

4. Fill in the missing words.

Consequently, at _____ years old he passed his pilot's licence – before he could even _____.

5. The author describes the Gemini 8 space capsule as travelling at a '**mind-boggling 18 thousand miles per hour**'. Why do you think the author has used the word 'mind-boggling'?

6. What was special about the rocket which blasted Neil Armstrong and his crewmates into space?

7. Summarise what happened during Neil Armstrong's '**greatest challenge of his career**'.

-
8. Does it surprise you that the Apollo 11 computers were powerful enough to ensure they reached the Moon safely? Justify your answer with evidence from the text.

Circle **one**: Yes / No

-
-
-
9. Explain, using evidence from the text, why Neil Armstrong was an excellent choice to land the Eagle on the Moon.
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-
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1. What happened on 20th July 1969? **Tick two.**

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- ☐ Buzz Aldrin stepped on to the surface of the Moon by himself.

2. **Armstrong devoted hours to his passion.**

Which word below is most similar in meaning to **devoted**? **Tick one.**

- ☐ wasted
- ☐ lost
- ☐ voted
- ☒ **dedicated**

3. **Find and copy** two qualities that describe Neil Armstrong.

1. resilient

2. calm in a crisis

4. Fill in the missing words.

Consequently, at sixteen years old he passed his pilot's licence – before he could even drive a car.

5. The author describes the Gemini 8 space capsule as travelling at a '**mind-boggling 18 thousand miles per hour**'. Why do you think the author has used the word 'mind-boggling'?

Pupils' own responses that show an understanding of the incredible speed at which the Gemini 8 space capsule was travelling. For example: The author has used this word to emphasise the extreme speed at which they were travelling; it would make our brains ache or minds boggle just to imagine 18 thousand mph!

6. What was special about the rocket which blasted Neil Armstrong and his crewmates into space?

The rocket was very powerful. It was called the Saturn 5 rocket and was the largest rocket ever built. It stood 111 metres tall which was higher than the Statue of Liberty.

7. Summarise what happened during Neil Armstrong's '**greatest challenge of his career**'.
Pupils' own responses summarising the paragraph. For example: Neil Armstrong boarded the lunar module (called the Eagle) with his crewmate Aldrin and then expertly piloted it down the Moon. He missed a crater and then carefully landed in the Sea of Tranquillity, which was a very difficult and challenging thing to do.
8. Does it surprise you that the Apollo 11 computers were powerful enough to ensure they reached the Moon safely? Justify your answer with evidence from the text.

Circle **one**: ☒ Yes / No

Pupils' own responses that use the evidence from the Fun Facts box. For example: it says that modern smartphones are several thousand times more powerful than the Apollo 11 computer so yes, it does surprise me that they were able to reach the moon.

9. Explain, using evidence from the text, why Neil Armstrong was an excellent choice to land the Eagle on the Moon.

Pupils' own responses using evidence to explain why he was an excellent choice to land the Eagle on the Moon. For example: his qualities (resilient and calm in a crisis), his excellent flying experience, his quick-thinking in the Gemini 8 mission.

Questions

1. What did American astronaut Neil Armstrong achieve which people had long thought impossible? **Tick one.**

- ☐ Having 600 million people watch him on television
- ☐ Returning safely from the Moon.
- ☐ Becoming the first person to walk on the Moon.
- ☐ Cementing his name in the history of mankind.

2. **Furthermore, it was Neil Armstrong who had had the challenging task of manually piloting and landing the lunar module on the Moon.**

What does the phrase **manually piloting** mean? **Tick one**

- ☐ Flying by hand, not on autopilot
- ☐ Using a manual to fly
- ☐ Having a challenging task
- ☐ Being a dangerous pilot

3. Give two examples of the names or types of aircraft which Armstrong flew before his mission to the Moon.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

4. **Neil Armstrong's initial space voyage nearly had catastrophic consequences.**

Explain what is meant by the word **catastrophic** in this sentence.

5. What did Neil Armstrong do during the Gemini 8 mission which '**proved himself to be a worthy astronaut**'?

6. Why do you think there was a long gap between the Gemini 8 trial-run into space and the Apollo 11 mission to the Moon?

7. Why do you think it was important for the inhabitants of Earth that the astronauts stayed in quarantine after returning?

8. Explain why the author has described the night of 20th July as the '**greatest challenge of Neil Armstrong's career**'?

9. Do you think Neil Armstrong's parents were supportive of his career choice? Explain how you know, using evidence from the text.

Circle **one**: Yes / No

10. Summarise what kind of person Neil Armstrong was and how this helped him achieve all he did in life.

Answers

1. What did American astronaut Neil Armstrong achieve which people had long thought impossible? **Tick one.**

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- ☐ Returning safely from the Moon.
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2. **Furthermore, it was Neil Armstrong who had had the challenging task of manually piloting and landing the lunar module on the Moon.**

What does the phrase **manually piloting** mean? **Tick one**

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- ☐ Using a manual to fly
- ☐ Having a challenging task
- ☐ Being a dangerous pilot

3. Give two examples of the names or types of aircraft which Armstrong flew before his mission to the Moon.

Two examples from the text, such as: Aeronca Champ, fighter planes, propeller-powered aircraft, jet-powered aircraft, rocket-powered aircraft. (Please note: NOT the Ford Tri-Motor aeroplane, in which he was a passenger.)

4. **Neil Armstrong's initial space voyage nearly had catastrophic consequences.**

Explain what is meant by the word **catastrophic** in this sentence.

The word catastrophic means his initial space voyage was close to being a disaster because it very nearly went wrong.

5. What did Neil Armstrong do during the Gemini 8 mission which '**proved himself to be a worthy astronaut**'?

Neil Armstrong used quick-thinking to switch to back up that saved the mission.

6. Why do you think there was a long gap between the Gemini 8 trial-run into space and the Apollo 11 mission to the Moon?

Pupils' own responses showing an understanding of the length of time needed to prepare for a space mission. Apollo 11 was the culmination of years of preparation and the Gemini 8 had been risky.

7. Why do you think it was important for the inhabitants of Earth that the astronauts stayed in quarantine after returning?

Pupils' own responses giving thought to the effects of contamination by lunar microbes on the planet Earth. For example, moonbugs might bring disease to our planet.

8. Explain why the author has described the night of 20th July as the 'greatest challenge of Neil Armstrong's career'.

Pupils' own responses that understand that the author wanted to put emphasis on the huge achievement Neil Armstrong had made on the night of 20th July. He flew the Eagle lunar module down to the Moon's surface and this was incredibly difficult.

9. Do you think Neil Armstrong's parents were supportive of his career choice? Explain how you know, using evidence from the text.

Circle **one**: ☒ Yes / No

Pupils' own responses that use evidence such as: his parents took him to Cleveland Air Race to see aircraft and his father paid for them to be passengers in a Ford Tri-Motor aeroplane. Also, his passion was clear to his family so they supported him to become a pilot.

10. Summarise what kind of person Neil Armstrong was and how this helped him achieve all he did in life.

Pupils' own responses that understand he was dedicated, hard-working, passionate, resilient and self-controlled and that these qualities helped him to become an astronaut and land on the Moon.