



Neil Armstrong

Neil Armstrong was born in Ohio in 1930. Inspired by an air show he attended with his father as a young boy, he earned his pilot's license at the age of fifteen. While at college, he was drafted by the Navy to serve in the Korean War, where he flew fighter planes from aircraft carriers. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering from Purdue University, and a master's degree from the University of Southern California.

After college, Armstrong worked as a test pilot for experimental planes. After that, he applied to become an astronaut. He joined the NASA Astronaut Corps in 1962. After passing a series of difficult physical tests, he became part of the "new nine", a second group of nine NASA astronauts. In 1966, he took his first trip into space as the command pilot of Gemini 8. He was responsible for the first successful docking of two vehicles in space.

At the end of 1968, during the Cold War and the Space Race with the Soviet Union, Armstrong was offered the chance to command the first manned landing on the moon. The Apollo 11 mission launched on July 16, 1969. After three days, three hours and 49 minutes in space, Armstrong landed a lunar module called The Eagle on the surface of the moon. Armstrong was the first astronaut to set foot on the moon on July 21, 1969. There, he said his famous words: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind". Together with astronaut Buzz Aldrin, Armstrong collected Moon rocks. They spent over 21 hours on the surface of the moon while astronaut Michael Collins orbited the Moon in the command module. After returning safely to Earth following his historic journey, Armstrong worked for NASA. He also taught aerospace engineering at the University of Cincinnati. Armstrong died in 2012.

1. What is Neil Armstrong famous for? _____

2. What famous words did Armstrong say during that momentous occasion?

