



Off to the Moon

Part 1

Teacher Reads Long ago, people knew very few facts about the moon. That changed in 1969, when a rocket helped launch a spacecraft carrying three astronauts to the moon.

People have shown interest in the moon for a long time.

11 Some have made up **stories** about the moon. In the past,
22 some people said they saw the **face** of a man in the moon.
35 Others would tell the tale of a rabbit on the moon. Still
47 others would joke that the moon is made of cheese!

57 Today there are many facts people have about the moon
67 that they did not have in the past. The moon has no light
80 of its own. The light we see comes from the sun. The moon
93 reflects back the sun's light. That light makes the moon seem
104 to shine bright. There is no wind, rain, or snow on the moon.

Part 2

Teacher Reads The moon, which orbits (goes around) Earth, is thousands of miles from Earth. It took a powerful rocket to get the spacecraft carrying astronauts Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin to the moon.

117 In 1969, three astronauts went to the moon in a
127 **spacecraft** called *Apollo 11*. *Apollo 11* needed help to get to
138 the moon. Some of the help came from a *Saturn* rocket. Its
150 one job was to help *Apollo 11* and the three men reach the
163 moon. The *Saturn* rocket helped launch *Apollo 11*.



Part 2 continued

171 A big tractor called a “crawler” hauled *Apollo 11* and the
182 *Saturn* rocket to the launch pad. Soon they blasted off. After
193 a short time passed, a part of the *Saturn* rocket came off.
205 That part of the *Saturn* rocket did not go to the moon with
218 *Apollo 11*. This was the first step in the plan to get *Apollo 11*
232 to the moon. Then another part of the *Saturn* rocket blasted
243 off and sent *Apollo 11* speeding to the moon. *Apollo 11* had
255 to get close to the moon and into the moon’s orbit.

Part 3

Teacher Reads History was about to be made. The astronauts were in the part of *Apollo 11* called the command module. To get on the surface of the moon, they needed to use a different part of *Apollo 11* called the lunar module, a small craft that would separate from *Apollo 11*.

266 When the three astronauts got close to the moon, part
276 of *Apollo 11* stayed in orbit with one astronaut inside. The
287 other astronauts got into another craft. They landed this
296 craft on the moon. They were amazed by what they saw,
307 but they had jobs to do, such as finding some rocks to take
320 home and taking many snapshots of the moon. When they
330 lifted off from the moon, they needed to make the load
341 lighter. They had to leave some things on the moon, such as
353 backpacks and boots. Then they went back to the other part
364 of *Apollo 11* still in orbit.

370 *Apollo 11* left the moon’s orbit and started the long
380 trip home. All went well on the return trip, and *Apollo 11*
392 splashed down in the water as planned.

399 This trip in 1969 was the first time that people landed
410 on the moon. It was the start of a thrilling time for trips
423 to **space!** [Learn More](#)

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