

# Eight Days Gone

## A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

**Themes:** Astronauts, Space, Exploration

**Grade Level:** K to 2nd grade

**Book Brief:** The author uses descriptive words and rhyme to recount the first trip to the moon by three brave astronauts.

**Author:**

Linda McReynolds

**Illustrator:**

Ryan O'Rourke



## TIME TO READ!



### Before reading, build background:

Discuss what your child knows about astronauts and space travel. Explain that we've sent people to the moon to explore.

### After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ What skills do you think an astronaut needs to have?
- ◆ Why were people nervous about the Eagle's mission?
- ◆ Why did the astronauts collect rocks?
- ◆ Would you want to travel to the moon? Why or why not?
- ◆ Would you be scared?

**While reading, define vocabulary:** After reading the book through once, go back and reread to define and discuss difficult words.



## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### CRATER CAKES

Ingredients: rice cake, cream cheese, powdered sugar, cocoa powder, jelly bean

Spread cream cheese over a rice cake. Sprinkle the cream cheese with powdered sugar mixed with a little cocoa powder. Place a toothpick in the jelly bean. Use the jelly bean to make "craters" in the cake. Enjoy! (Snack can also be made without sugar and cocoa.)

### MOON JOURNAL

Create a moon journal with a small notebook and pencil. Pick a time to go outside each night for a month. Observe the moon and how it changes. Record your observations in the moon journal. How did the moon change each night? What are the phases of the moon? Which phase is your favorite?

### MOONSCAPE

Create a moonscape out of pillows and sheets. Spread pillows on the floor and cover with a white or yellow sheet to represent the moon's surface. Pretend to walk on the moon. Can you see impressions from where you walked? The footprints of the astronauts who first walked on the moon are still there today because there is no wind or water to erase them.

### TECHNOLOGY LINK

Visit <http://readinginaction.org/bookcasts/eight-days-gone> to see a video of the first moon landing. You can also listen to a recording of this story being read. To take a virtual tour of the moon landing sites, download Google Earth ([www.google.com/earth/explore/showcase/moon.html](http://www.google.com/earth/explore/showcase/moon.html)).

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT THE MOON

*Moon Landing: Apollo 11 40th Anniversary Pop-Up*, Richard Platt and David Hawcock (2008), *The Moon Book*, Gail Gibbons (1998), *Moon Over Star*, Dianna Hutts Aston (2008).



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