

Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Astronomy, Space, Exploration, Discovery

Book Brief: A look back at the Apollo 11 mission in 1969. This nonfiction book takes the reader on the eight-day journey from lift-off to man's first steps on the moon and then back home to Earth.

Author and Illustrator:
Brian Floca

Content Connections:
Social Studies,
Science, Math



TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Have students ever heard of Apollo 11? Where? Discuss with students the fact that Apollo 11 was the mission, not a

spacecraft, to put the first man on the moon. Why might the mission have been named after Apollo?

The Pictures: Looking at the inside cover, use the pictures to help students understand the different parts of the spacecraft. This would be a good time to

review the terms Saturn V, Columbia, and Eagle and the significance of each.

Prior Knowledge: Discuss what students know about space exploration and NASA. Are we still exploring space? Do other countries have space programs? Why is humanity so interested in learning more about outer space?

Vocabulary: ignition sequence, altitude, Launch Control, Mission Control, lobe

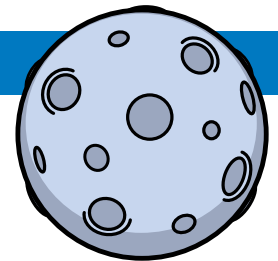
Purpose for Reading: Encourage students to focus on the sequence of events that needed to take place in order for this mission to be successful.

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ What might be going through the astronauts' minds as they prepare for the mission?
- ◆ Why do you think Launch Control and Mission Control are in two different places?
- ◆ What can you tell about the atmosphere of the control room?

- ◆ How does the author use *onomatopoeia*?
- ◆ What phase is the moon in as they approach?
- ◆ Where do the shed rocket parts go?
- ◆ Why was this event so important to the US space program?



LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: What events needed to take place in order to ensure this mission went smoothly and the astronauts were able to land on the moon and then return to earth safely? Make a timeline or graphic organizer recreating the sequence of events.

Extending Our Thinking: How would you feel if you were the astronaut in Columbia? How do you think NASA chose who would be first on the moon? Watch a little of the original television coverage of the landing: www.youtube.com/watch?v=E96EPHqT-ds (landing around 15:00). Why were people so excited by the moon landing? Would you be excited about astronauts landing on another planet?

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



Reading Is
Fundamental