



Topical Tidbits

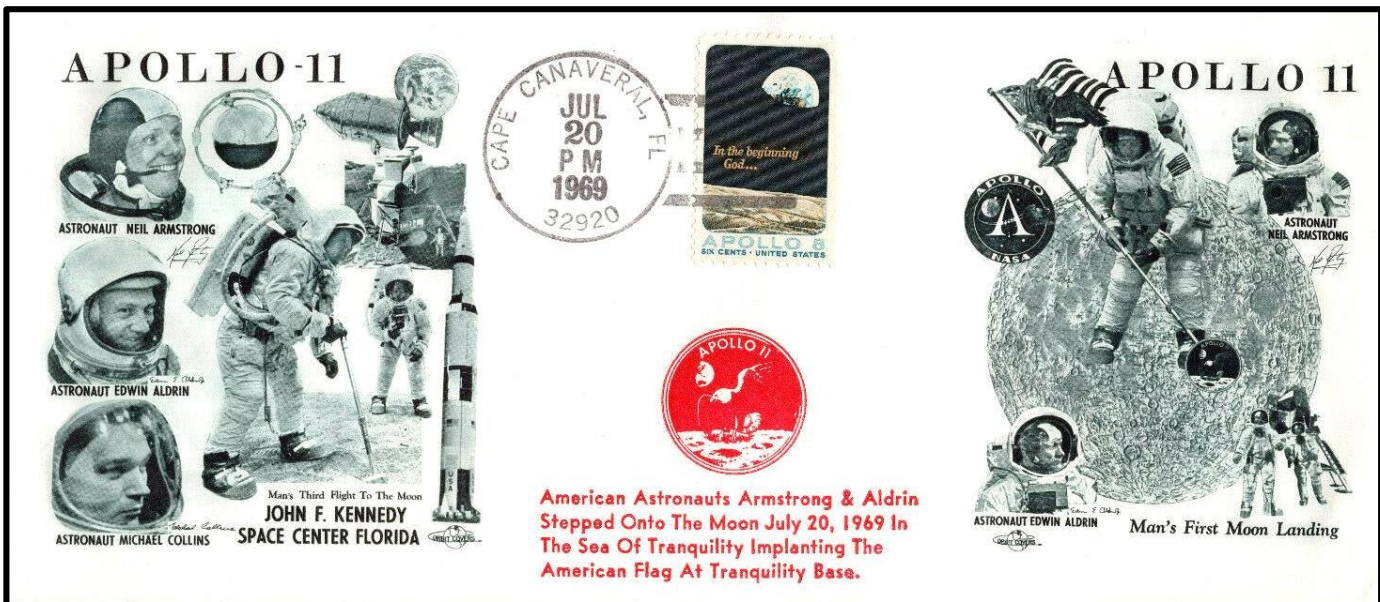
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Man on the Moon

“That’s one small step for (a) man, one giant leap for mankind.” This famous line was said by astronaut Neil Armstrong as he made the first human footprints on the Moon. 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing that took place on July 20, 1969. Can you even imagine what it must have been like to be the first person EVER to walk on the moon?! This event is so monumental that it was celebrated around the world. And of course, the philatelic (stamp) world celebrated, too. Thousands of stamps and covers (envelopes) were made to mark this special occasion. Every time there’s an anniversary of this event, more stamps and covers are issued. There’s even a group of philatelists (people who collect stamps) who specialize in space stamps. On their website, www.space-unit.com, you can find lots of interesting items. Be sure to look under “Space Covers, Stamps, and Stationery” on the menu. There you will find pictures of space stamps issued by year. Enjoy this issue and don’t forget to make your own philatelic souvenir of this historic event!



**American Astronauts Armstrong & Aldrin
Stepped Onto The Moon July 20, 1969 In
The Sea Of Tranquility Implanting The
American Flag At Tranquility Base.**

This cover was issued to commemorate the first moon landing. It’s postmarked from Cape Canaveral, Florida, which is where the launch took place four days earlier. July 20th is the day that astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon, while Michael Collins orbited overhead in the Command Module. The stamp was issued earlier in 1969 to honor the Apollo 8 mission. The goal of this mission was to put astronauts in orbit around the moon and advance toward the eventual goal of landing on the moon.

True or False?

Directions: Read each statement about the Apollo 11 mission carefully. Place a **T** on the line if you think the statement is TRUE. Place an **F** on the line if you think the statement is FALSE. Answers can be found at the bottom of the page.

1. _____ Armstrong carried with him a piece of wood from an airplane that belonged to the Wright brothers who achieved the first recorded flight in 1903.
2. _____ The astronauts left pictures of human beings and the recordings of many languages on the Moon's surface.
3. _____ The astronauts landed with only 25 seconds of fuel to spare.
4. _____ An estimated 600 million people watched the moon landing on TV.
5. _____ The astronauts were quarantined for 21 days after returning from the moon to prepare for "the remote possibility that they are harboring unknown lunar organisms that might endanger life on earth."
6. _____ Completely assembled, the Apollo 11 space suits weighed 200 pounds on Earth.
7. _____ The astronauts had to declare moon rocks through customs in Hawaii upon their return to Earth.
8. _____ The crew's first meal was bacon squares, peaches, sugar cookie cubes, pineapple grapefruit drink, and coffee.
9. _____ The computer that landed Apollo 11 on the moon had only 2 MHz of processing power, 4 KB of RAM, and 72 KB of ROM, less than that of a modern calculator.
10. _____ From launch to splashdown, the Apollo 11 mission took 195 hours and 18 minutes, of which 2 hours and 34 minutes were spent walking on the moon.

President Kennedy & the Moon

Ever wonder why John F. Kennedy and the moon landing are on philatelic items together? In 1961, the "Space Race" with Russia was in full swing. In order not to be left behind, President Kennedy issued a goal of reaching the moon by the end of the decade. He said, "No single space project...will be more exciting, or more impressive to mankind, or more important...and none will be so difficult or expensive to accomplish..." The president's vision came true sooner than he thought. On July 20, 1969, Apollo 11 astronauts walked on the Moon. NASA renamed the space center where the Apollo moon rockets were launched after Kennedy, just one week after he was assassinated.



History of the Apollo Space Program

NASA's Apollo program included both manned and unmanned missions and ran from 1961-1975. Apollo 1 ended in tragedy when a flash fire swept through the command module. NASA used Apollo missions two through six as test launches of the rockets and spacecraft without any crew aboard. Missions 7 through 17 were all manned, but it wasn't until Mission 11

that man walked on the moon. In total, twelve men walked on the moon before the Apollo program was finished—missions 18-20 were cancelled due to budget limitations. Man has never yet returned to the moon.

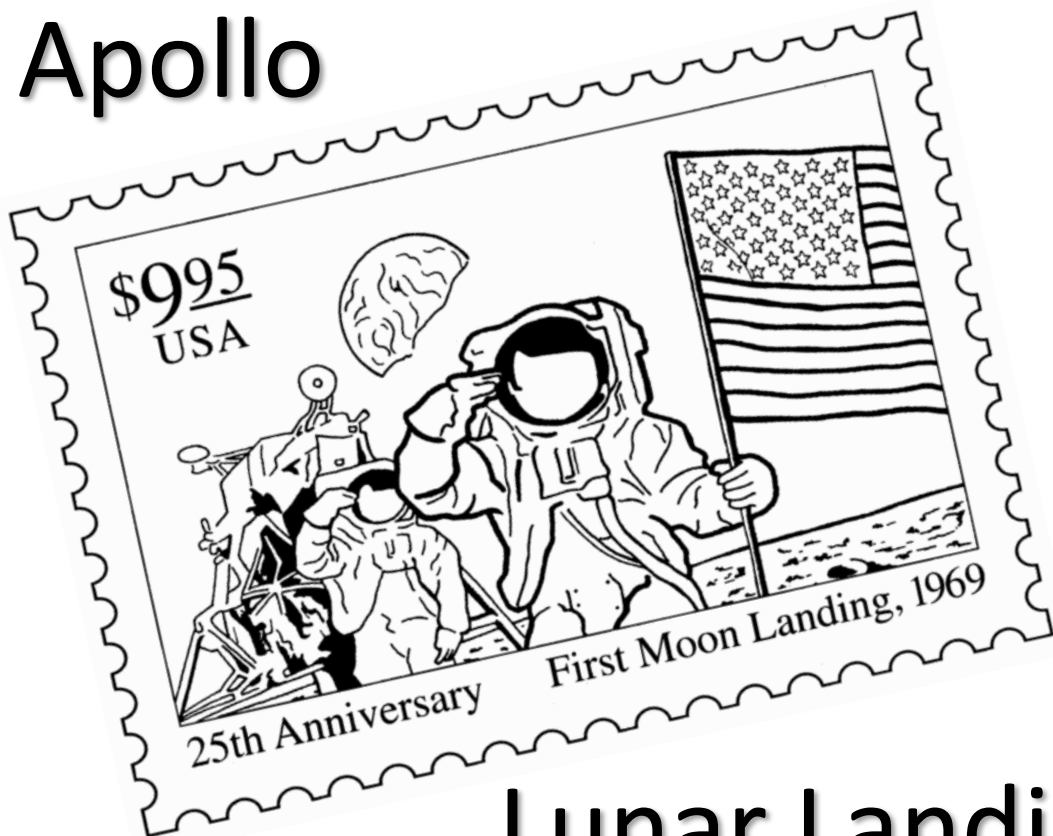


Directions:

Cut out the four pages on the dotted line, then use a stapler to assemble. Next, color the stamp on the cover. If you don't have stamps, you can cut out the ones on the last page and match them to the correct mission. Or, you can attach your own stamps in the empty space.

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the Apollo



Lunar Landings

APOLLO 11

Commander	Command Module Pilot	Lunar Module Pilot	Launch Date	Return Date	Command Module Call Sign	Lunar Module Call Sign
Neil Armstrong	Michael Collins	Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin	7/16/69	7/24/69	Columbia	Eagle

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:



- First space mission to land people on another world
- Armstrong and Aldrin spend nearly 2 days on the moon collecting samples
- First return of samples from another planetary body

APOLLO 12

Commander	Command Module Pilot	Lunar Module Pilot	Launch Date	Return Date	Command Module Call Sign	Lunar Module Call Sign
Charles "Pete" Conrad, Jr.	Richard Gordon	Alan Bean	11/14/69	11/24/69	Yankee Clipper	Intrepid

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:



- Mission almost aborted after the Command Module was struck twice by lightning during liftoff
- First precise manned landing on the moon near the Surveyor 3 probe
- In 2 EVAs, astronauts spent over 15 hours recovering portions of Surveyor, exploring the moon's surface, and collecting samples

APOLLO 14

Commander	Command Module Pilot	Lunar Module Pilot	Launch Date	Return Date	Command Module Call Sign	Lunar Module Call Sign
Alan Shepard	Stuart Roosa	Edgar Mitchell	1/31/71	2/9/71	Kitty Hawk	Antares

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:



- Landed at the site intended for the Apollo 13 mission
- Alan Shepard walks on the moon and hits a golf ball
- First experiments conducted by Command Module pilot in lunar orbit
- Samples collected from the crater Fra Mauro
- First color video images from the moon

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APOLLO 15

Commander	Command Module Pilot	Lunar Module Pilot	Launch Date	Return Date	Command Module Call Sign	Lunar Module Call Sign
David Scott	Alfred Worden	James Irwin	7/26/71	8/07/71	Endeavor	Falcon

MISSION HIGHLIGHT



- First mission to use the Lunar Rover
- Astronauts perform three separate EVAs (extravehicular activities)
- Improved spacesuits gave increased mobility and stay-time
- Gathered 169 pounds of lunar material

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APOLLO 16

Commander	Command Module Pilot	Lunar Module Pilot	Launch Date	Return Date	Command Module Call Sign	Lunar Module Call Sign
John Young	Thomas "Ken" Mattingly	Charles Duke, Jr.	4/16/72	4/27/72	Casper	Orion

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS



- First and only Apollo landing in the lunar highlands
- First use of the moon as an astronomical observatory
- Astronauts spend three whole days on the moon

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APOLLO 17

Commander	Command Module Pilot	Lunar Module Pilot	Launch Date	Return Date	Command Module Call Sign	Lunar Module Call Sign
Eugene Cernan	Ronald Evans	Harrison Schmitt	12/07/72	12/19/72	America	Challenger

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS



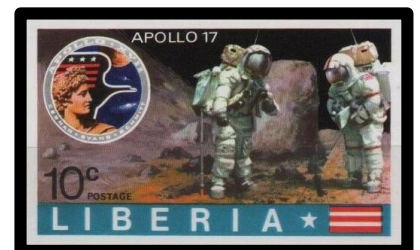
- First night launch
- Last manned mission to the moon
- Geologist Schmitt was the first professional scientist to go on a NASA mission
- Commander Cernan is the last man on the moon

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Stamps for the Apollo Lunar Landings Booklet

Directions:

These stamps are for the Apollo Lunar Landings booklet. After carefully cutting them out, glue them to the correct booklet page. You may need a magnifier to help you find the mission name on the stamp. Some of the mission numbers are written in Roman numerals, but there are other clues on the stamp and booklet page that can help you place it on the right page. Good luck!



Note: Stamps are not shown at actual size.

Moon Fun



Q: How does one astronaut on the moon tell another astronaut that he's sorry?
A: He Apollo-gises.

Draw or write what you'd take if you were going on a trip to the moon.



The stamp above can be used as a guideline to color the stamp on the left.

The Moon

