

My feelings about the Apollo 11 moon landings

On July 20, 1969, two astronauts made history by being the first people to land on the moon. They were Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin. The landing was part of the Apollo program launched in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy. The ultimate goal these two astronauts achieved was to land a man on the moon by the end of the 1960’s. The astronauts arrived after a 3-day trip on Apollo 11, launched on July 17, 1969 by a Saturn V rocket from Kennedy space center-launch complex 39, Merritt Island, Florida.

When the astronauts landed on the moon, 600 million people were watching. A speech was given by US president Richard Nixon. The astronauts were on the moon for 21 hours and 34 minutes. They collected rocks and dust that totaled 21.5kg from the surface. They left the moon after a brief rest. The lunar ascent stage blasted the astronauts into space again where it connected to the command module. Just before splashdown, the service module separated from the command module and the lunar ascent stage, which were abandoned. After the service module travelled through the atmosphere, it splashed down in the South Pacific Ocean. The astronauts were then taken to the USS Hornet. They were quarantined for 3 weeks after landing.

Pictures



Buzz Aldrin descending the ladder of the Lunar module



Mexico and southwest America as seen by the astronauts of Apollo 11.

After Apollo 11, NASA launched 5 more missions to the moon, four of which landed, one (Apollo 13), was forced to turn back due to an explosion on board. After the landings, many media reports were focused on the mission and the crew. TV shows, newspaper articles and even books featured the historic event. To this day, Apollo 11 is still being used as a topic for books, shows and also as a testing topic for the popular series “Mythbusters”. The story of Apollo 11 has kept many people-critics-busy, probably trying to prove that no astronaut ever landed on the moon.

My feelings about the Apollo moon landing are that it was amazing and unbelievable. I feel that way because of the tremendous size of the accomplishment by the 3 astronauts and also by the sheer task that they were faced with. However, they managed to complete the mission and also become legends by being the first ones to touch the surface of the moon.

They have done something truly amazing and made world headlines on both newspapers and also the news. I think that it was not an easy task to complete but instead a technologically complex mission that they had to handle. The mission was filled with uncertainty and to a certain extent, fear as it was the first time anyone had been launched into space and had to touch, examine and analyze, and bring back samples of the surface of a world other than the planet we live on. I’m sure the men were nervous at times such as launch and had to deal with hair-raising situations like when they were about to miss their landing spot and had only 25 seconds of fuel to spare. However, most things went smoothly on one of the most technologically advanced projects of the 20th century. All this time, mission control in Houston, Texas was trying to make sure nothing went wrong and was cheering for the astronauts when they landed.

As Neil Armstrong said: “That’s one small step for (a) man, one big step for mankind.” The big step made in history is parallel to by only the invention of the internet, antibiotics, and language. Today, more than a semi-century after the landing, memories of that moment are still fresh, engraved in people’s minds to this day. They have also fulfilled Kennedy’s promise and have helped America and the world. The design, for example, is being used to design future spacecraft. Whether on Earth or the moon, they have brought mankind one step forward and that step is truly valuable. They have demonstrated that nothing is impossible to achieve, with a little courage and determination.

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