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# Man visits the moon; walk lasts two hours

## Astronauts blast off, go into lunar orbit

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Two Americans blasted off from the moon today, reaching the relative safety of lunar orbit and leaving their footprints in the lunar dust and in the history of man.

It was the first time anything had ever rocketed away from the moon.

Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin E. Aldrin Jr. immediately began pursuing the command ship, orbiting 69 miles above the surface with astronaut Michael

Collins at the controls.

"Beautiful. Very smooth," Aldrin commented as Eagle took off from the moon. "A very quiet ride. There's that one crater down there."

"We've a little bit of slow walking here," he said later.

"Shutdown," he called out as the engine stopped.

"Great," mission control said and reported Eagle in a near-perfect orbit ranging from about 11 to 54 miles high.

firing neared. Precisely 69 seconds after Collins flashed over the landing site, Armstrong and Aldrin took off.

By the time they reached orbit, Columbia was 300 miles ahead and the chase was on.

Armstrong and Aldrin were to execute several intricate maneuvers, triggered by engine firings, to close the gap and catch its fleeting target.

Linkup was scheduled for 4:32 p.m.

After a rest period, the astronauts plan to light up the big command ship engine at 11:57 p.m. tonight to start the quarter-million-mile journey back to earth. Splashdown is scheduled at 11:51 a.m. Thursday in the Pacific.

Mission control awakened the astronauts shortly after 10 a.m. following a six-hour rest period. Instruments which monitored Armstrong during the night indicated he slept fitfully. There is only one set of biomedical instruments in the cabin so Aldrin was not monitored.

Sleeping in the cramped quarters of the LM is difficult and Aldrin reported: "Neil has been lying on the engine cover and I curled up on the floor."

In achieving lunar orbit, the 3,500-pound-thrust engine, which cost \$250,000, had to carry the men straight up for 14 seconds, then tip over to an angle of 52 degrees to place them into an egg-shaped orbit ranging from 11 to 52 miles above the moon.



Times-Post News Service

## Armstrong: a 'giant leap' for mankind

By THOMAS O'TOOLE  
Times-Post News Service  
(Washington Post)

SPACE CENTER, Houston — Man stepped out onto the moon Sunday night.

"That's one small step for man," declared astronaut Neil Armstrong at 9:56 CDT, "one giant leap for mankind."

Armstrong then walked on the dead planet and found the surface very powdery, littered with fine grains of black dust.

Just after 10 p.m. CDT, astronaut Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin joined Armstrong on the surface. They put on a show for a worldwide television audience that will long be remembered as a truly beautiful experience.

They planted an American flag, saluted it and talked by radiophone with the President in the White House and then faced the camera and saluted Nixon.

"The surface is fine and powdery," Armstrong said. "I can kick it up loosely with my toe."

"It adheres like powdered charcoal to the boot," he went on, "but I only go in a small fraction of an inch. I can see my footprint in the moon like fine grainy particles."

Armstrong began talking almost as if he didn't want to leave the moon. "It has a stark beauty all its own," he said. "It's like the desert in the southwestern United States. It's very pretty out here."

### Picture quality clear

Armstrong shared his first moments on the moon with the world; a television camera on the outside of the landing craft sent back an amazingly clear picture of his first steps.

He seemed to be swimming along, taking big and easy steps on the airless moon despite his bulky white pressure suit.

"There seems to be no difficulty walking around," he said. "As we suspected, it's even easier than the one-sixth G (a G is the force of gravity on earth) that we did in simulations on the ground."

One of the first things he did was to scoop up a small sample of the moon with a long-handled spoon with a bag on the end like a small butterfly net.

At 10:11 p.m., Aldrin started down the landing craft's 10-foot ladder to join Armstrong. Armstrong guided him.

While Armstrong watched, Aldrin went through some cautious walking experiments in his 85-pound suit.

### Aldrin experiments

Aldrin did some more experimental walking and commented: "If I'm about to lose my balance in one direction, recovery is quite natural and easy. You've just got to be careful leaning in the direction you want to go in."

Then Armstrong put a telephoto lens on the television camera. "Now we'll read the plaque for those who haven't read it before," he said, referring to a small stainless steel plaque that had been placed on one of the craft's legs.

"It says," Armstrong said. "Here men from the planet earth first set foot on the moon, July 1969 A.D. We came in peace for all mankind."

"It has the crew members signatures," Armstrong said, "and the signature of the President of the United States."

At 10:43, Mission Control in Houston asked both men to stand together near the flag. "The President of the United States would like to talk to you."

"Hello, Neil and Buzz, I'm talking to you from the Oval Room of the White House," Nixon began. "Because of what you have done, the heavens have become part of man's world. It inspires us to double our efforts to bring peace and tranquility to earth."

Armstrong and Aldrin stayed out on the moon for almost two hours, with Aldrin first back into the landing craft just before midnight.

### Landing was 'beautiful'

The pair had landed the Eagle at 3:17 p.m. in the moon's Sea of Tranquility.

"You did a beautiful job," Astronaut Charles Duke said from Houston. "Be advised there's lots of smiling faces down here."

The landing apparently was not an easy one, and was about four miles from the target in the southwestern edge of the sea, almost right on the lunar equator.

"We were coming down in a crater the size of a football field with lots of big rocks around and in it," Armstrong said about five minutes after landing. "We had to fly it manually over the rock field to find a place to land."

"It's a relatively flat plain," he said, "with a lot of craters of the five-to-50-foot variety. Some small ridges, 20 to 30 feet high. Thousands of little one-and-two-foot craters. Some angular levees in front of us, two feet in size. There is a hill in view ahead of us. It might be a half mile or a mile away."

### Partly cloudy

Little Rock, North Little Rock and Vicinity — Partly cloudy through Tuesday. A chance of showers and thundershowers mostly in the afternoons and early evenings through Tuesday. Low tonight 74; high Tuesday 95.

### On the inside

Answer Please	5A
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## Eagle reports: 'Tranquillity Base here'

SPACE CENTER, Houston — The Apollo astronauts landed Sunday just inside their targeted "safe" landing oval — a long, painstakingly studied oval 8.3 miles long by 3 miles wide on the moon's visible side.

There was some disagreement about the precise spot. U.S. Geological Survey lunar-mapping specialists at Flagstaff, Ariz., called the landing spot "just a little outside the northwest edge" of the selected oval.

In any case, the landing of the lunar module, "Eagle," apparently set the astronauts down only four miles or so short of a treacherous set of craters named "The Cat's

Paw" by Apollo planners.

The landing site was on the east or right side as one looks at the moon, on the western edge of one of its great dark splotches, the Sea of Tranquility.

It all began at 2:08 p.m. CDT when Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin — flying feet first and face down — fired up their landing craft's descent engine for the first time.

Burning the engine for 27 seconds in what amounted to a braking maneuver to slow it down and start it falling, the two men were behind the moon at the time and out of radio contact with the earth.

Coming to the moon's front side and flying down and

westward, the Eagle was coming up over the eastern region of the Sea of Tranquility at an altitude of 53,000 feet and only minutes away from its second critical maneuver — the powered descent to the lunar surface.

"Five minutes to ignition," astronaut Charles Duke radioed up from Houston. "You are going for a powered descent."

"Roger," Armstrong replied softly. "Understand."

At 3:05 Armstrong began throttling up the engine to slow the Eagle down again, to drop it down toward the lunar surface.

"Light's on," he said. "Descent looks good."

When the Eagle dropped to

4,200 feet, Duke broke in on the radio, his voice tense and excited: "Eagle, you are going for landing."

"Roger, understand," Armstrong calmly replied. "Go for landing."

"Sixty seconds," Duke said.

JODRELL BANK, England (AP) — Russia landed Luna 15 on the moon's surface today, 500 miles from America's Apollo 11 landing craft. Jodrell Bank Observatory reported.

Signals picked up at the giant radio-telescope here indicated that after four days of moon orbit, the unmanned

### Coming home

Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin are on their way home. The drawing shows the ascent stage of the

landing craft blasting off from the moon. They left the lower, or descent, stage behind after using it as a launch pad.

## Luna 15 lands on moon's surface



Associated Press

### Meanwhile, back at the ...

Meanwhile, back at the Manned Space Center in Houston, the three astronauts' wives react exuberantly to news of the successful moon landing and lunar walk. They are (from left): Mrs. Joan Aldrin, wife of Apollo 11 lunar module pilot, Edwin E. Aldrin; Mrs. Jan Armstrong, wife of flight commander Neil Armstrong; and Mrs. Pat Collins, wife of command module pilot Michael Collins.

