

Neil Armstrong

Neil Armstrong was born on August 5, 1930, in Wapakoneta, Ohio. At the age of six, he went on his first airplane ride and his love of airplanes and flying began to develop. On his 16th birthday, he became a licensed pilot. Growing up, he was active in Boy Scouts and earned the rank of Eagle Scout.

After high school, Armstrong majored in aeronautical engineering at Purdue University. His college years were interrupted when he was called to serve in the U.S. Navy as a pilot during the Korean War. During the war, he flew 78 combat missions, one of which ended with his plane being shot down. He safely ejected from the plane and was rescued by a Navy helicopter crew. After completing his service, he returned to college and completed his degree.

Neil Armstrong went on to become a test pilot for what is today known as NASA. He piloted many experimental aircraft during this time including testing the X-15 which took him to an altitude of 207,000 feet. This was the highest he flew before participating in his first space mission.

In 1962, he joined the space program and became a member of their second group of astronauts. On March 16, 1966, his first trip into orbit as a command pilot almost ended in tragedy after a rocket thruster malfunction. Armstrong was able to regain control of the space craft and made an emergency splashdown in the Pacific Ocean.

His most famous accomplishment came on July 20, 1969, when he became the first person to walk on the moon during the Apollo 11 mission. As he stepped onto the lunar surface, he spoke the historic words, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Neil Armstrong and Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin, Jr. then explored the moon's surface and collected surface samples.

In 1971, Armstrong retired from NASA. He went on to teach at the University of Cincinnati as a professor of aerospace engineering. After completing his teaching career, he continued to work within the aerospace industry. In a 2005 interview he was asked about if he was uncomfortable with the fame he received from being the first man to walk on the moon. His response was, "No, I just don't deserve it." He claimed that "Circumstance put me into that particular role. That wasn't planned by anyone."

Neil Armstrong died from complications of a heart surgery in 2012.

Identify 2 challenges Neil Armstrong overcame in his lifetime:

1. _____

2. _____

Identify 1 habit you believe Neil Armstrong displayed:

Share your evidence:

Identify another habit you believe Neil Armstrong displayed:

Share your evidence:
