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Neil Armstrong

Neil Armstrong was a famous American astronaut. He is famous for being the first man to walk on the Moon.

Neil was born in 1930, in Ohio, United States of America.



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Neil Armstrong got his first pilot's licence at the age of 15. He flew over 200 different aircraft in his career.

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NASA

Neil joined NASA's Astronaut Corps in September 1962 to start his astronaut training.

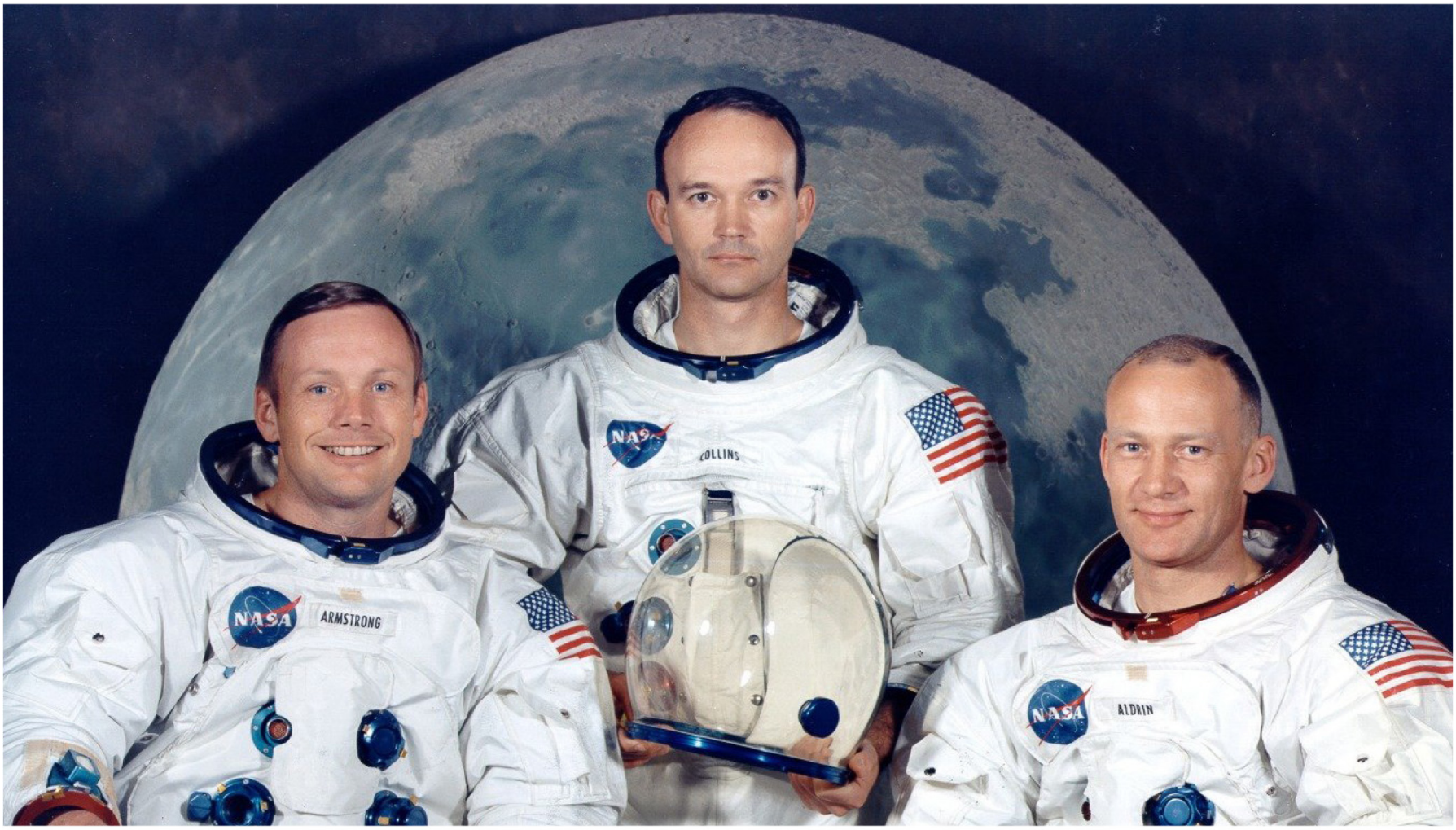
He was chosen to command the Apollo 11 1969 mission to the surface of the Moon.



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On 16th July 1969, Apollo 11 launched from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Buzz Aldrin were on board.

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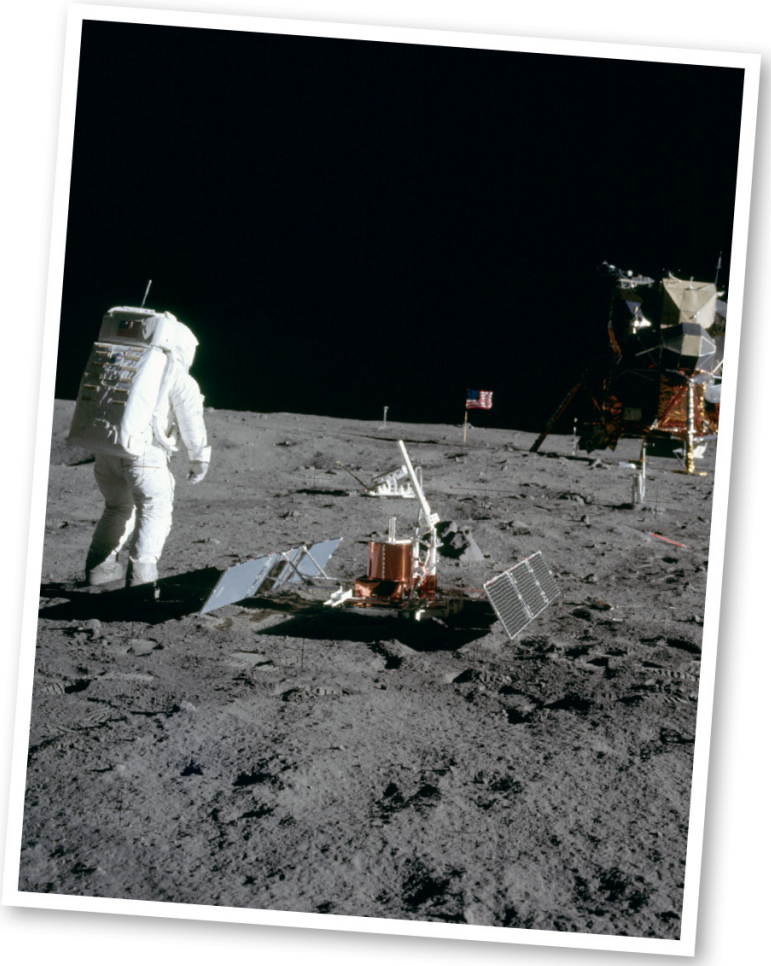
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Moon landing

The lunar module, *Eagle*, landed on the Moon on 20th July 1969. Neil stepped off the ladder of the *Eagle* and became the first human to walk on the surface of the Moon.

When he stepped onto the Moon, he said, 'That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.'



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Moon landing

Neil spent three hours on the surface of the Moon with Buzz. They collected rocks to take back to Earth and planted an American flag on the Moon's surface. Neil, Buzz and Michael landed back on Earth on 24th July 1969.



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The three Apollo 11 astronauts were warmly welcomed home. In New York City, crowds lined the streets to cheer on the famous heroes.

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Later years

Neil Armstrong received many special awards during his career, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Neil died on 25th August 2012. He was 82.



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