

A Walk on the Moon

On July 16, 1969, the spacecraft *Apollo 11* blasted off into space. Three astronauts inside the spacecraft took off for the moon. They wanted to be the first people to ever land on the moon.

Millions of people watched on TV as Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Buzz Aldrin made their four-day journey.

▲ The spacecraft was launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

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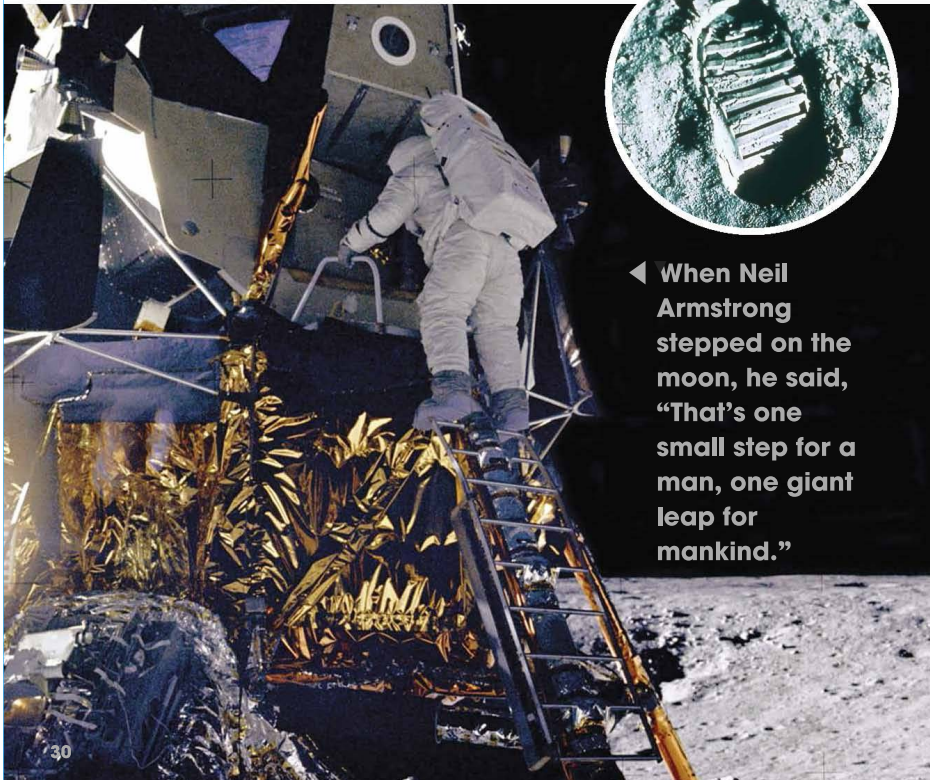
Armstrong and Aldrin moved into a smaller craft called the *Eagle* for the moon landing. The two men saw that the *Eagle* was heading for a huge pile of rough boulders, or rocks. They were able to steer it to a smooth area. A cloud of moon dust rose up as the *Eagle* landed safely.



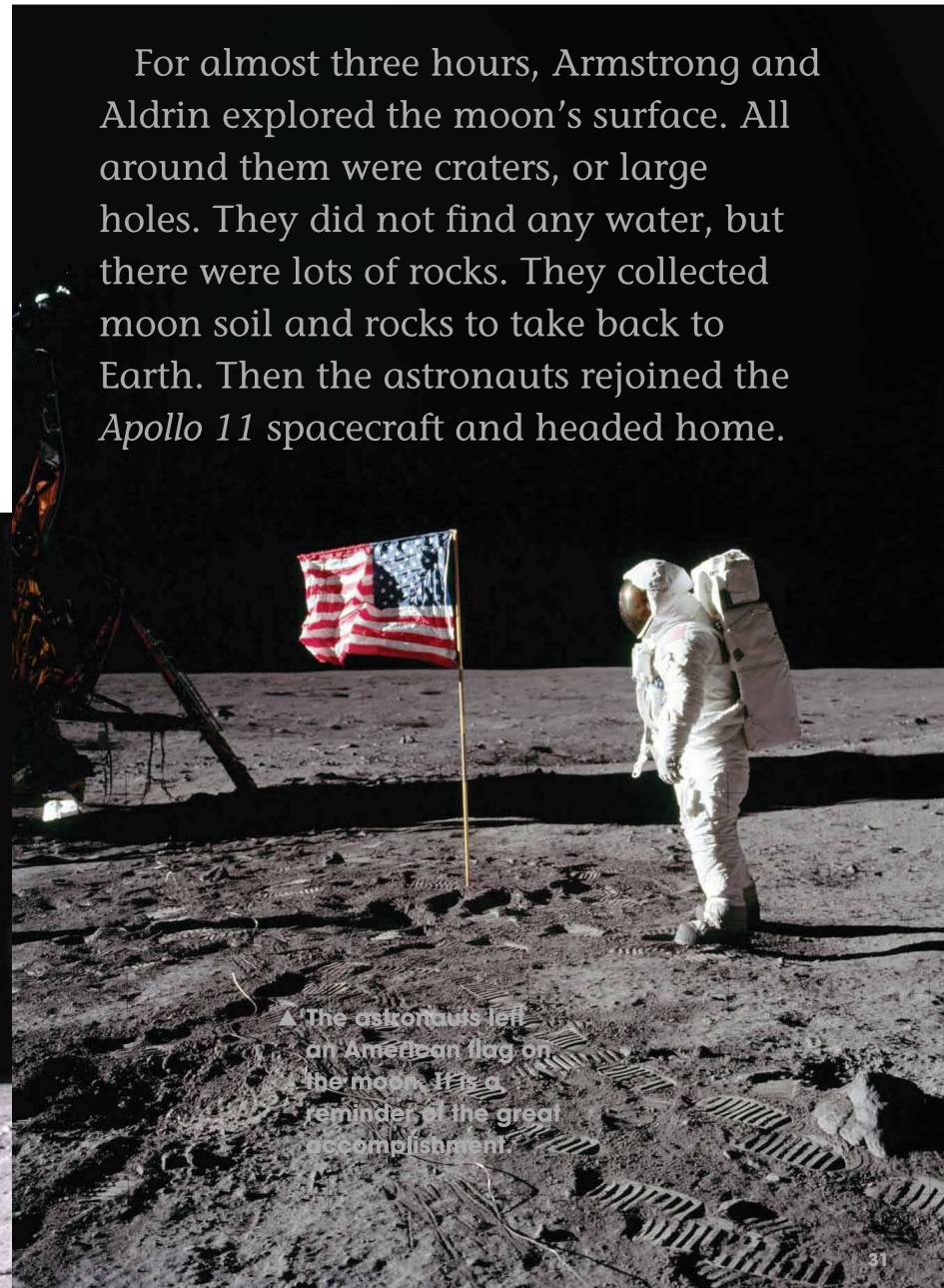
▲ The *Eagle* landed on four legs and had a ladder for the astronauts to climb down.

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People back home were glued to their TVs. They saw Neil Armstrong climb down the *Eagle's* ladder. He became the first person to step onto the moon. He described the soil as a fine, dusty powder. The moon has less gravity than Earth. So bouncing around was easier than walking!



◀ When Neil Armstrong stepped on the moon, he said, "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind."



▲ The astronauts left an American flag on the moon. It is a reminder of the great accomplishment.