The Apollo Space Programme

What Was the Apollo Program?

Apollo was the NASA program that resulted in American astronauts' making a total of 11 spaceflights and walking on the moon.

The first four flights tested the equipment used in the Apollo Program. Six of the other seven flights landed on the moon. The first Apollo flight happened in 1968. The first moon landing took place in 1969. The last moon landing was in 1972.

A total of 12 astronauts walked on the moon. The astronauts conducted scientific research there. They studied the lunar surface. They collected moon rocks to bring back to Earth.

What Spacecraft Were Used for the Apollo Program?

NASA designed the Apollo Command Module for this program. It was a capsule with room for three astronauts. The astronauts rode in the Command Module on the way to the moon and back. The astronauts had room to move around inside the spacecraft - about as much room as a car.

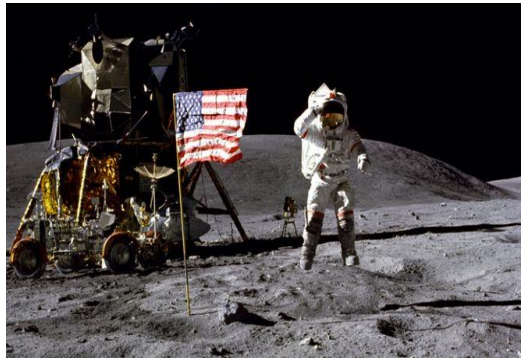
Another spacecraft, the Lunar Module, was used for landing on the moon. This spacecraft carried astronauts from orbit around the moon to the moon's surface, then back into orbit. It could carry two astronauts.

How Did Astronauts Land on the Moon?

The Apollo spacecraft were launched on top of the Saturn V rocket. The Saturn V was made of three stages. The first two stages used up their fuel reaching orbit. The third stage was used to push the Apollo Command Module and Lunar Module to the moon. Once the spacecraft reached the moon, the two modules separated from each other. Two astronauts in the Lunar Module landed on the lunar surface. The third astronaut stayed in the Command Module in orbit around the moon.

On the last three missions, astronauts drove on the moon with the Lunar Rover. Astronauts drove the Lunar Rover to explore more of the moon's surface. The Lunar Rovers were made so they could be folded to fit in a storage area on the Lunar Module. The Lunar Rovers were left on the moon.

When the two astronauts were finished working on the surface, they got back in the Lunar Module and launched. It went back into orbit around the moon and connected with the Command Module. The two astronauts got back into the Command Module. They left the Lunar Module behind and flew back to Earth. The Lunar Module crashed into the moon. The Command Module landed in the ocean, and a ship picked up the astronauts.



Why Was the Apollo Program Important?

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy challenged the nation to land astronauts on the moon by the end of the decade. NASA met that challenge with the Apollo program. It was the first time human beings left Earth orbit and visited another world. These missions made it possible to explore more distant worlds further in the future.

When Did Humans First Visit the Moon?

The first manned mission to the moon was Apollo 8. It circled around the moon on Christmas Eve in 1968. However, Apollo 8 did not land on the moon. It orbited the moon, then came back to Earth. The first moon landing occurred on July 20, 1969, on the Apollo 11 mission. The crew of Apollo 11 was Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Buzz Aldrin. Armstong and Aldrin walked on the lunar surface while Collins remained in orbit around the moon. When Neil Armstrong became the first person to walk on the moon, he said, "That's one small step for (a) man; one giant leap for mankind."

Apollo 13 is one of the more famous lunar missions. Apollo 13 was supposed to land on the moon but malfunctioned. NASA had to figure out how to bring the astronauts home safely. Apollo 13 flew all the way around the moon before returning home.

The Apollo Space Programme - Vocab

1. Apollo _____
2. NASA _____
3. Astronauts _____
4. Conducted _____
5. Lunar _____
6. Module _____
7. Capsule _____
8. Lunar Module _____
9. Command Module _____
10. Orbited _____
11. Crew _____
12. Lunar surface _____
13. Mankind _____
14. Malfunctioned _____
15. Saturn _____
16. Lunar Rover _____
17. Decade _____

What else I would like to know…….