

A black and white photograph of a lunar surface, showing several boot prints from the Apollo moon landing. The surface is dark, rocky, and covered in dust. The boot prints are prominent, showing the tread pattern of the lunar boots. The title 'The Magnificent Moon' is overlaid on the image in a large, stylized font.

The *Magnificent* Moon

by Lydia Shultz

Green 1c
Power Builder

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- 1 “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.” Have you heard this quote before? Neil Armstrong is the man who said it. He was the first human to step onto the moon. These words describe how he felt at that moment.
- 2 Think about how excited he must have been! The year was 1969. People had looked at the moon for thousands of years. They made up stories about it. In some stories the moon was a god. In others it was just a hunk of cheese.
- 3 Then scientists began to study the moon. They looked at the moon through telescopes. This way, they could see the moon more closely. Still, they could only wonder what it was like up there.
- 4 In 1959 scientists did something big. They sent a spaceship to the moon! This spaceship did not have people on it. That was good because it crash-landed on the moon. Other spaceships were sent later. They took pictures of the moon. These pictures were studied with great interest.
- 5 In 1968 another remarkable thing happened. Men circled the moon in a spaceship. Few people thought that such a thing could be done. The men did not land on the moon like Neil Armstrong did.
- 6 Think about how Neil Armstrong must have felt. He knew he was one of many who had looked at the moon. Now he was standing on it! He could know how quiet and calm it was. He could see his footprints on its dusty surface. He could marvel at its vast craters and rocky highlands.
- 7 What must he have thought about the moon at that moment? We can only guess by the way he described it. He called the moon “magnificent.”

COMPREHENSION

A Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a* or *b*.

- 1 This story tells
 - a** about the first man to walk on the moon.
 - b** how Armstrong found footprints on the moon.
- 2 A telescope makes
 - a** faraway things seem closer.
 - b** balls of light seem brighter.
- 3 How long had people gazed at the moon by the year 1969?
 - a** Hundreds of years
 - b** Thousands of years

- 4 Most likely, those who studied the moon in the past would
 - a** have wanted a chance to see it in person.
 - b** not have been interested in finding out more about the moon.
- 5 Armstrong called his first step onto the moon a "giant leap for mankind" because
 - a** humans through the ages had wished for the chance to walk on the moon.
 - b** he had to jump onto the moon from the spaceship.

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

B Often you can find out the meaning of a word by seeing how it is used in a story. The other words in the story give you clues.

Find the word in the story that best fits each meaning. (A paragraph number tells you where to look.) Write the word.

- 1 humans (1)
- 2 a person's words repeated exactly by another person (1)
- 3 amazing (5)
- 4 wide (6)
- 5 marks in the moon's surface left by rocks that crashed into it (6)

C Read the words you wrote. Which one best fits in each sentence below? Write the word.

- 6 The rocks that left these _____ must have been very large.
- 7 The moon's surface and Earth's seas are examples of things described as being _____.
- 8 This _____ was first said by a famous astronaut.
- 9 Isn't it _____ that people have walked on the moon?
- 10 All of _____ would have celebrated Armstrong's moonwalk.

THINK ABOUT IT

D Read each story. Write *a* or *b* to answer each question.

A man and a woman went to study the moon. They looked for rocks and dirt. The man bent down. Nearby, the woman pushed her shovel into the ground.

- 1 What did the man do next?
 - a Dug up some dirt
 - b Picked up a rock
- 2 What did the woman do next?
 - a Dug up some dirt
 - b Picked up a rock
- 3 How do you know what they did?
 - a They were looking for rocks and dirt.
 - b They were walking around.

The man and the woman were ready to leave the moon. They told the spaceship floating above the moon they were heading back. They climbed into the landing craft. The spaceship got ready to go back to Earth.

- 4 What did they do next?
 - a Flew to the spaceship
 - b Flew straight to Earth
- 5 How do you know what they did?
 - a They had to get to the spaceship to get back to Earth.
 - b They were ready to go back to Earth. They got into the landing craft.

E moon + light = moonlight

The word *moonlight* means "the light of the moon." *Moonlight* is a compound word. A compound word is made by putting two or more words together.

Look at the two words in **bold type**. Put them together to complete the second sentence. Write the compound word.

- 6 The **ship** waited to carry them through **space**. They boarded the _____.
- 7 The **light** of the **sun** seemed different on the moon. The _____ was brighter there.
- 8 The **prints** of each **foot** could be seen in the dust. The people left many _____.
- 9 No **rain** will ever **fall** on the moon. The footprints would disappear if there were _____.
- 10 A **storm** with **wind** won't change the footprints. There has never been a _____ on the moon.