

Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11

A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Themes: Astronomy, Space, Exploration, Discovery

Book Brief: A look back at the Apollo 11 mission in 1969. This nonfiction book takes the reader on the eight-day journey from lift-off to man's first steps

on the moon and then back home to Earth.

Author and Illustrator:
Brian Floca



TIME TO READ!



Before reading, build background knowledge:

What do you think it would be like to travel in to space? What do you think inspires someone to become an astronaut? Why is exploring space important?

While reading, make

connections: How do the illustrations help you tell how the astronauts feel? How about the people in

the control room and the crowd watching the lift-off? Those watching the landing? What happens to the pieces of ship that fall away?

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ What challenges did the astronauts face?
- ◆ Which astronaut's role would you have wanted?
- ◆ Why are the Columbia and Eagle referred to as "her"?
- ◆ What are some of the other roles important to this mission other than astronauts?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

SPACESHIP SKEWER

Ingredients: watermelon, bananas, grapes (red & green), small wooden skewers

Thread 3 grapes onto the skewer, alternating colors. Peel a banana; cut it in half for the ship's body. Thread 1 half on the skewer on top of grapes. Cut the watermelon into a triangle and place on top of the skewer as the ship's tip. Countdown to your first bite and enjoy!

MOON SAND

Materials: 3 cups sand, 1 cup corn starch, 1 cup water, bowl, measuring cup

Mix sand and corn starch in a large bowl. Slowly pour in 1/2 cup of water and mix well. Add remaining water until sand has a damp consistency but is not too wet.

What will you create with your moon sand? Can you make a print like Aldrin did when he stepped on the moon?

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Materials: balloons, markers, tape, rods (unsharpened)

Create your own mission to space by visiting: www.nasa.gov/externalflash/edu_game/. The spacecraft you choose will allow you to visit different places in space. Be sure to go on multiple missions to experience an up-close look at the moon, Mars, and other destinations in the solar system.

TECHNOLOGY LINK

Watch actual footage from the 1969 mission at www.nasa.gov/multimedia/hd/apollo11_hdpage.html.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT APOLLO 11

- Eight Days Gone*, Linda McReynolds (2012)
Mission Control: This Is Apollo, Andrew Chaikin (2009)
The Moon Over Star, Dianna Hutts Aston (2008)



Reading Is Fundamental