

Grades: 6-8

NOVA, “First Man on the Moon”

NOVA presents an intimate portrait of Neil Armstrong, the first person to set foot on the moon, through interviews with Armstrong's family and friends. The film reveals his achievements as a Navy combat veteran and pioneer of high-speed flight. NOVA revisits the final moments of the Apollo 11 landing, when Armstrong brought the Eagle down safely with seconds to spare. But he regretted that he got so much credit for the team effort that the lunar landing represented. In its exploration of this quietly effective man, NOVA explores his achievements following Apollo. This is an inspiring story of heroic risk-taking and humble dedication to advancing humanity's adventure in space.

After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning

Question Box 1

- What is the author's purpose for creating this program? What is your evidence for this?
- In less than 5 sentences, state the key message for this episode?
- Cite evidence from the video that demonstrates features/characteristics of Neil Armstrong.
- What made Neil Armstrong a perfect candidate for the Apollo 11 mission?
- What were some of the problems encountered with this mission?
- Why is Neil Armstrong considered a hero? Does he consider himself to be a hero?
- Who were some of the other people interviewed and how did they describe Neil Armstrong?
- What else was going on during this time in history? Why does this matter?

Question Box 2

- What about the show stood out to you?
- What did you find most interesting and why?
- How much did you know about the subject before we started?
- Would you have wanted to be the first person to walk on the moon? Why or why not?
- How did Neil Armstrong feel about the recognition he received? Do you think he deserved the recognition? Why or why not?
- What do you think would be different if this mission failed?

Box 3 (Tasks)

- It is 238,900 miles to the moon. It is 93,564,000 miles to the sun. It is 135, 040,000

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miles to Mars. It took just under 76 hours to reach the moon. If all of the conditions are the same, use mathematics to explain how long it would take to reach the sun. How long would it take to reach Mars? Would these trips be feasible? Use mathematics to defend your answer.

- Discuss what is meant by, “seconds to spare,” when talking about Armstrong landing Eagle on the moon.
- Make a timeline, poster or other presentation of Neil Armstrong's career starting with his college days up to the time he landed on the Moon.
- Create a news article about the moon landing. You can find actual news articles online and compare.

Box 4 (Enrichment)

- Create an Infographic that details the missions of Apollo 7 through Apollo 17.
- Describe what attributes of being a Naval test pilot helped Neil Armstrong as an astronaut. Create a collage using these adjectives (cut out words from magazines, draw the words, create it all online/virtually, or...)

Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)

- Neil Armstrong is described as humble in this episode. Let us take a closer look at humility.
- Define humble/humility.
- Watch this short video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4ZhW2wVGf8>
- What are some of the characteristics of humility shared in the video?
- What are some of the qualities or characteristics that are opposite of humility?
- Read this article: <https://www.fastcompany.com/3034144/6-ways-humility-can-make-you-a-better-leader>
- How would a leader's ability to be humble impact the productivity of a team?
- Think of a time when you demonstrated humility in a team setting. Write a paragraph describing how your humility impacted your team members and the outcome of the project. (ELD) Use a sentence frame such as: *An example of when I demonstrated humility was when I _____ in a team setting. My team reacted by _____.*
- No other country, including the United States, has landed a human on the moon since the Apollo 17 landing in late December, 1972. Discuss, with evidence, the reasons why.