

July 16, 1969: Launch
July 20, 1969: First Step on the Moon
July 24, 1969: Splashdown



In response to the Soviets sending Sputnik into the Earth's orbit, in 1958, the space race was on. President Kennedy made a speech in 1961 promising to put a man on the moon by the end of the decade. President Kennedy had challenged the nation. It was the mission of Apollo 11 to land two men on the moon, then return them safely to Earth. It demonstrated what man can do with effort and ingenuity.

While the crew was in space, they wanted to explore the moon using the lunar module, set up a TV camera to transmit signals to Earth, set up some experiments, take lots of pictures, and gather samples of lunar-surface materials for return to Earth.

"I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth."

John F. Kennedy
May 25, 1961

Starring Neil Armstrong as the Mission Commander, Michael Collins as the Command Module Pilot, and Edwain "Buzz" Aldrin as the Lunar Pilot



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W I D E S C R E E N

RACE INTO SPACE

