

Lead Question: Who Wants to be an Explorer?

National Curriculum driver: History

Children should develop an awareness of the past, using common words and phrases relating to the passing of time. They should know where the people and events they study fit within a chronological framework and identify similarities and differences between ways of life in different periods. They should ask and answer questions choosing and using parts of stories and other sources to show that they know and understand key features of events. They should understand some of the ways in which we find out about the past and identify different ways in which it is represented.

Q1: Who was Neil Armstrong?

Watch the video of the moon landing and discuss the fact that he was the first man on the moon.

Q2: What can we find out about Neil Armstrong?

Research his life using QR codes on the ipads. Create a timeline of his life.

Q3: What questions would you ask Neil Armstrong if he were still alive?

Watch video clips of interviews with Neil Armstrong. Role play interviews. Hot seating activities. Write / act / video an interview with Neil Armstrong.

Q4: Was he the only man to go to the moon?

Find out who else went on the mission with him. Research other animals / people who have been in space. Timeline of space exploration. Discussions about 'Space Race' with Russia.

Q5: What did they do on the moon?

Watch clips from the moon landing. Find out what the astronauts did on the moon and why they went in the first place.

Q6: Are there any other famous explorers?

Find out about famous explorers from the past and present. Link to local explorers e.g Ms Allison's dad. Timeline of key explorations in history.

Q7: Did Neil Armstrong really go to the moon?

Discuss the fact that some people don't believe Neil Armstrong ever landed on the moon. Research hoax suggestions and have a debate between classes to put forward both sides of the argument. Invite another class to watch the debate and decide which story they believe.

Q8: How was the world a different place in 1969?

Look at how technology has changed since then. Talk about how events are and were communicated to the world.

Q9: Should space travel continue in the future?

Discuss NASA and what they do. Are there any space missions planned? Look at the International Space Station. Discuss problems faced by astronauts and discuss whether the dangers outweigh the benefits.

Cross curricular links to be made during the unit of work.

As writers we will:

Write a recount of the moon landing.
Write poems related to space.
Write a biography of Neil Armstrong.
Write descriptions of astronauts and space / moon.
Write a postcard from the Moon / ISS.

As readers we will:

Use different sources to find out about the topic.

As mathematicians we will:

Look at distances to the moon and other planets.
Use measurements to create paper aeroplanes and measure how far they travel.

As artists we will:

Create moon pictures.
Make constellation star pictures.
Portraits of Neil Armstrong.

As ICT users we will:

Use the internet to research the topic.
Watch video clips of the moon landing and interviews.
Use video cameras to record interviews and news report.

Curriculum Drivers

My Place in the World

Where is NASA? Where did the space shuttle take off and land?

Live Well, Live Long.

Research and taste astronaut food.

World of Work

How could you become an astronaut?
Compare qualities needed by different explorers?

End of unit presentation

Throughout the unit, we will take lots of photos and videos of the children taking part in activities and of their work. At the end of the unit we will invite their parents in to school to watch a short presentation by the children including a video presentation made using Animoto or a similar program.