



Based on: Earthrise – My Adventures as an Apollo 14 Astronaut

By Edgar Mitchell, Chicago Review Press, 2014

Explore the Apollo Missions

The NASA Apollo space program was designed to land humans on the Moon and safely bring them back to Earth. Missions flew from 1968 until 1972. Apollo missions 7 and 9 were designed to only orbit Earth and test the spacecraft. Apollo missions 8 and 10 were designed to orbit the Moon (but not land on it) to bring back photographs of the Moon's surface. Six Apollo missions including, Apollo 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, and 17, successfully landed 12 astronauts on the Moon. These six Apollo missions returned a great deal of scientific data and lunar samples. In addition, many experiments were set up on the Moon. Edgar Mitchell was the sixth person to walk on the Moon. Tragedy struck on the launch pad at Cape Kennedy with Apollo 1. Apollo 13 was designed to land on the Moon, but returned to Earth due to a spacecraft malfunction.

The NASA digital archives provide a wealth of information about the Apollo program, including: reports, manuals, transcripts, multimedia, photographs, and much more. For this activity, you'll take a look at three excellent NASA websites. The "Apollo Missions" and "What was the Apollo Program?" websites give a great deal of information about each mission and the program. The "Apollo Lunar Surface Journal" provides actual transcripts of the words spoken throughout individual missions, from the astronauts in space to the individuals at Mission Control on Earth. You might want to take notes on topics you find of interest.

Approximate age range: fifth to eighth grade

Objective: To help young people learn about the Apollo missions.

You'll need:

- * Computer with Internet Access
- * Pencil or pen and paper

Explore: The "Apollo Missions"

Go to: www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/apollo/missions/index.html

Explore: "What was the Apollo Program?"

Go to: www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/5-8/features/nasa-knows/what-was-apollo-program-58.html

Explore: The "Apollo Lunar Surface Journal"

Go to: www.history.nasa.gov/alsj/frame.html