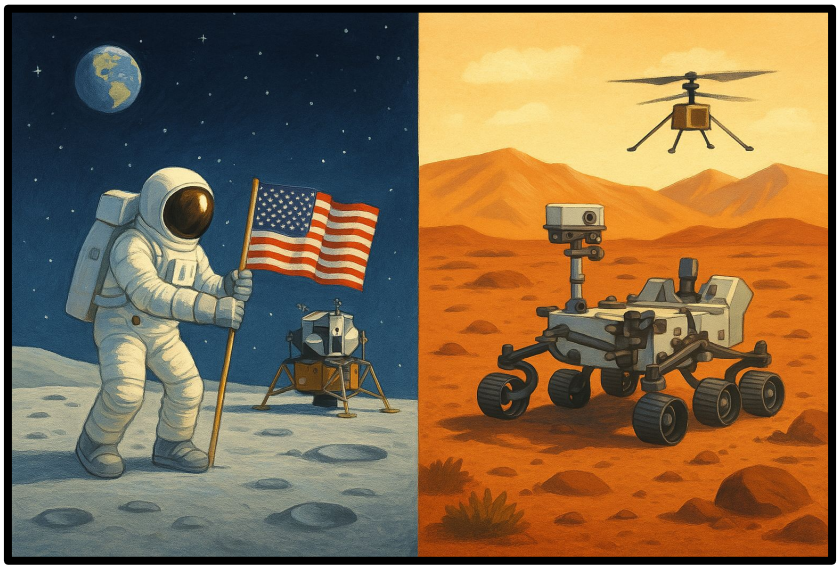
Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Integrate Two Texts

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Apollo 11 Moon Landing

On July 20, 1969, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to walk on the Moon. This mission, called Apollo 11, was part of NASA's goal to win the "space race" and explore beyond Earth. Millions of people watched on television as Armstrong stepped onto the Moon and said his famous words: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." The mission wasn't just historic—it was dangerous. The astronauts had to rely on advanced navigation, oxygen systems, and communication tools that had never been tested in space before. After collecting rock samples and setting up science equipment, the astronauts safely returned to Earth, becoming national heroes. Apollo 11 inspired a generation of scientists, engineers, and explorers. It showed that with teamwork, courage, and technology, humans could achieve incredible goals. The Moon landing marked a turning point in how people viewed space and what might be possible in the future.

Today's Missions to Mars

While the Moon landing happened over 50 years ago, today's scientists are focused on exploring Mars. Although no human has been there yet, robots like NASA's Perseverance rover are already collecting data on the planet's surface. Perseverance landed on Mars in 2021 and is searching for signs of ancient life, drilling into rocks, and testing how humans might survive there someday. The rover even carried a small helicopter named Ingenuity, which made the first powered flight on another planet. Unlike the fast-paced race of the Apollo era, Mars exploration is slower and more careful. The long distance between Earth and Mars makes it harder to send people or return them safely. Still, scientists are using what they learn to prepare for future missions. These efforts could lead to a crewed Mars mission in the 2030s. Like Apollo 11, today's space missions show how science and imagination can shape our future.

Name:

The Apollo 11 Moon Landing & Today's Missions to Mars

1. What do both texts suggest about the goals of space exploration?

A. They are only meant to find new planets.

B. They depend entirely on private companies.

C. They push humans to discover and achieve new things.

D. They were both completed without any technology.

2. What is one way the second text adds to your understanding of space missions?

A. It compares astronauts from different countries.

B. It explains how robots are preparing the way for future human travel.

C. It shows how Apollo 11 was a failure.

D. It explains why the Moon has better rocks than Mars.

3. Fill in the blank:

The Perseverance rover carried a small helicopter named _____, which completed the first powered flight on another planet.

4. How does reading about both the Moon landing and the Mars mission help you understand how space exploration has changed over time?

_____

_____

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5. Which mission do you think required more problem-solving—Apollo 11 or Perseverance? Use evidence from both texts to support your answer.

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Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: V
Lexile Level: 950L–1100L
Grade Level: 5th Grade, End of the Year
Genre: Informational Text / Science & History

Introducing the Text

"Today we're reading two texts about space exploration. One tells the story of the Apollo 11 Moon landing in 1969, and the other explains modern efforts to explore Mars. As we read, we'll practice comparing information from both texts and think about how they connect and build our understanding of space science."

Vocabulary: mission, astronaut, rover, navigation, ancient

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you know about space exploration today?
2. Why do you think people wanted to go to the Moon?
3. What do you think would be hard about exploring Mars?

During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What was the goal of the Apollo 11 mission?
2. What is Perseverance doing on Mars?
3. How are the two space missions similar and different?

After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How did space exploration in the past lead to what we're doing today?
2. Which fact from the reading surprised or interested you most?
3. If you could design your own space mission, where would you go and why?

Activity Idea

Have students create a timeline that starts with Apollo 11 and ends with Perseverance's mission. Include key events, dates, and technologies. Then, students will write one paragraph predicting what the "next step" in space exploration will be and why it matters.