Name: Date: Score: / 6

Apollo 11: Reading Comprehension

Nonfiction: History · about 250 words

Read the passage. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

Apollo 11

On July 20, 1969, about 600 million people around the world watched on television as an American astronaut stepped onto the moon for the first time. His name was Neil Armstrong. As his boot touched the dusty surface, he said, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

The journey began four days earlier at Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins rode atop a Saturn V rocket, the most powerful rocket ever built at that time. After traveling about 240,000 miles, the spacecraft entered orbit around the moon.

Armstrong and Aldrin climbed into the lunar module, named the Eagle, and descended toward the surface. Collins stayed behind, orbiting in the command module, Columbia. As the Eagle approached its landing spot, Armstrong saw that it was covered with large boulders. He took manual control and steered past them, landing with only seconds of fuel to spare. "The Eagle has landed," he radioed.

The two astronauts spent about two and a half hours walking on the moon. They collected nearly 50 pounds of rocks and soil, set up science experiments, and planted an American flag. Because the moon has no wind, their footprints are likely still there today.

On July 24, the astronauts splashed down safely in the Pacific Ocean. Apollo 11 fulfilled a goal that President John F. Kennedy had set in 1961: to land a person on the moon and return them safely to Earth before the end of the decade.

1. **Main idea:** What is this passage mostly about?
   A. the planets in our solar system B. how rockets are built C. the life of John F. Kennedy
   D. the first mission to land people on the moon

2. **Detail:** Who was the first person to step onto the moon?
   A. Buzz Aldrin B. Michael Collins C. Neil Armstrong D. John F. Kennedy

3. **Detail:** What was the lunar module called?
   A. Saturn V B. Apollo C. Columbia D. the Eagle

4. **Inference:** Why did Armstrong take manual control of the Eagle?
   A. They were lost. B. Aldrin asked him to. C. The landing spot was covered with large boulders.
   D. The computer was turned off.

5. **Detail:** Why are the astronauts' footprints likely still on the moon?
   A. The moon has no wind. B. Astronauts protect them. C. They were made of metal. D. It rains on the moon.

6. **Detail:** What goal did Apollo 11 fulfill?

ANSWER KEY

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