

Voyage to the Moon



90 The first men landed on the Moon in 1969. They were three astronauts from the US *Apollo 11* mission. Neil Armstrong was the first person to set foot on the Moon. Only five other *Apollo* missions have landed on the Moon since then.

91 A giant *Saturn 5* rocket launched the astronauts on their journey to the Moon. It was the largest rocket that had ever been built. Its three huge stages lifted the astronauts into space, and then the third stage gave the spacecraft an extra boost to send it to the Moon.



Legs folded for journey

Lunar Module

Command Module

Thrusters

Main engine

Service Module with fuel and air supplies

▲ The Lunar and Command Modules travelled to the Moon fixed together, then separated for the Moon landing.

93 The Lunar Module took two of the astronauts to the Moon's surface. Once safely landed they put on spacesuits and went outside to collect rocks. Later they took off in the Lunar Module to join the third astronaut who had stayed in the Command Module, circling above the Moon on his own.

► The longest time that any of the *Apollo* missions stayed on the Moon was just over three days.

94 The Lunar Rover was a moon car for the astronauts to ride on. It looked like a buggy with four wheels and two seats. It could only travel about as fast as you can run.

95 No one has been back to the Moon since the last *Apollo* mission left in 1972. Astronauts had visited six different places on the Moon and brought back enough Moon rock to keep scientists busy for many years. Maybe one day people will return to the Moon and build bases where they can live and work.

◀ The distance from the Earth to the Moon is nearly 400,000 kilometres. That is about as far as travelling round the Earth 10 times.

92 The Command Module that carried the astronauts to the Moon had no more room than an estate car. The astronauts were squashed inside it for the journey, which took three days to get there and another three to get back. On their return, the Command Module with the astronauts inside, splashed down in the sea.

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

On the way to the Moon an explosion damaged the *Apollo 13* spacecraft, leaving the astronauts with little heat or light.

