Year

History

Great Explorers

Knowledge Organiser

Historical summary

On July 20, 1969, millions of people gathered around their televisions to watch two U.S. astronauts do something no one had ever done before. Wearing bulky space suits and backpacks of oxygen to breathe, Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin became the first human beings to walk on the moon. Michael Collins, though he travelled some 238,000 miles to the moon and came within 69 miles, Collins never set foot on the lunar surface like his crewmates Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong

Key facts	Key people
Moon landing 20 th July 1969	Mae Jemison— Mae Carol Jemison (born October 17,
Mae Jemison – flew into space 12 th Sep-	1956) is an American engineer, physician, and former
tember 1992	NASA astronaut.
Katherine Johnson—During her 33-year	Neil Armstrong—Neil Alden Armstrong (August 5,
career at NASA and its predecessor, she	1930 – August 25, 2012) was an American astro-
earned a reputation for mastering com-	naut and first man to walk on the moon.
plex manual calculations and helped pio-	Michael Collins—Michael Collins was an American
neer the use of computers to perform the	astronaut who flew the Apollo 11 command module
tasks.	Buzz Aldrin—American astronaut, engineer and fight-
The moon is 238,855 miles away from	er pilot, he and Neil Armstrong were the first two
Earth	people on the Moon
The lunar module, Eagle, was so small that	Katherine Johnson - Katherine Johnson was an Ameri-
there was no room for seats.	can mathematician who worked for NASA.

Important questions

What skills do we need to be an explorer?

Why was Neil Armstrong's small step also 'a great leap' forward?

Why will we remember Mae Jemison and her achievements?

Why is someone like Katherine Johnson an important of exploration history?

Are you the kind of person who could become a Mars explorer?

Vocabulary	
Explorer	the action of examining an unfamiliar area
Expedition	journey undertaken by a group of people with a particular purpose
Courage	the ability to do something that frightens one
Bravery	courageous behaviour
Pioneer	a person who is among the first to explore
Voyage	a long journey involving travel by sea or in space
Aircraft	a vehicle (such as an airplane or rocket) for traveling through the air
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Space	The universe beyond the earth's atmosphere
Astronaut	a person who is trained to travel in a spacecraft
Mankind	human beings as a whole
Planet	a celestial body moving in an elliptical orbit round a star
Mission	an important assignment given to a person or group of people
Solar system	the collection of eight planets and their moons in orbit round the sun,

What I should know by the end of this unit.

Describe the achievements of Mae Jemison, the qualities she possesses and give reasons why she is recognised as a great explorer.

Describe and suggest reasons to help explain why the achievement of Neil Armstrong was so significant in the history of mankind and what enabled him to accomplish what he did.

Recognise, observe and suggest reasons for the particular challenges explorers venturing to Mars will face and explain the personal qualities they will require to complete the expedition successfully.