## **Missions To The Moon**

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**Play movie:** Double-click the picture of JFK.

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"One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." The world heard these words in July 1969, when Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin landed on the Sea of Tranquillity on the surface of the moon. The great distance between the Earth and the moon had finally been conquered.

The Apollo space missions began in the early 1960's, with the enthusiastic support of President John F. Kennedy.



JFK's promise never came true during his short administration. However, the strength of his conviction resulted in a space program which was to experience great success in the decade which followed.

## Lunar Exploration Spacecraft:

The Apollo astronauts were launched in a combination Command and Service Module. The Command Module reached the neighborhood of the moon and entered into close orbit, but was not designed to actually land on the moon.

A small spacecraft, called the Lunar Excursion Module (LEM), was used to shuttle the astronauts to and from the surface of the moon. This was one of the most dangerous aspects of the lunar landings, since the astronauts were entirely dependent on the LEM's ascent engine. If it failed, there was no way for them to return to the orbiting Command Module.

The Lunar Module was stored behind the Apollo Command Module. During the three-day journey to the moon, the Lunar Module was removed from storage before the third stage of the rocket and the storage compartment were jettisoned into space.

Later Apollo missions (1971-1972) made use of a Lunar Rover Vehicle (LRV). This motorized unit enabled the astronauts to inspect a much larger area of the moon's surface.