



## NASA Test Boosters for Next Moon Mission



### What happened during the Apollo 11 mission?

- Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were the first men to walk on the Moon.
- Neil Armstrong famously said, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

NASA have tested a rocket booster which they hope to use on their next mission to the Moon.

The tests were carried out in Utah in the United States and took just over two minutes! According to NASA, this is how long the booster needs to work when used for rocket launch and flight.

These boosters are said to be the "most powerful ever built for flight."

The Space Launch System rocket (SLS), which these boosters will power, is headed for the Moon in 2024. NASA say that only the SLS can send the Orion spacecraft "astronauts and supplies to the Moon in a single mission."

The Artemis mission, which is set to launch in 2024, will see the first woman walk on the surface of the Moon.

This will be the first time that a human has stepped foot on the Moon since the Apollo 17 mission in 1972.

In Greek mythology, Artemis is Apollo's twin sister. This is why the mission has been given its name!

NASA's Jim Bridenstine has said, "NASA's goal is to take what we learn living and working on the Moon and use it to send humans on the first missions to Mars."

Meanwhile, SpaceX have also launched a rocket recently. Their mission is to send another 60 'starlink satellites' to space.

These satellites hope to offer Internet access to

Photo: A previous SpaceX launch.

remote parts of the world.

Space & Telescope magazine say that each satellite is around the size of a table. SpaceX hope to have 12,000 of them in orbit around the Earth eventually!

Elon Musk, who owns SpaceX, said, "We're really talking about something which is, in the long term, like rebuilding the Internet in space."

According to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, in the history of space exploration, only 9,000 satellites have ever been launched.

Watch this space to find out how they get on...

### Glossary

<b>mission</b>	The name given to a trip to space.
<b>satellites</b>	An object sent to orbit a planet or moon to collect information.
<b>orbit</b>	To complete a full circle of an object.
<b>exploration</b>	When you find information about an unknown area or subject.

# Questions

1. According to the article, who spoke the following words, “that’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind”?

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2. How do you think the female astronauts feel about NASA’s plans to send a woman to the Moon in 2024?

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3. Do you think that SpaceX will send 12,000 satellites to create an Internet network in space? Explain your answer with evidence from the text.

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4. In the paragraph beginning ‘Space & Telescope magazine,’ why do you think the author of the article chose to include the following fact? ‘each satellite is around the size of a table’

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5. What is meant by the phrase ‘watch this space’?

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6. Which of the following alternate headlines does not summarise the article?

- Artemis Rocket Test
- Apollo In Space
- NASA Test Booster
- Testing....3,2,1

# Answers

1. According to the article, who spoke the following words, “that’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind”?

**Neil Armstrong**

2. How do you think the female astronauts feel about NASA’s plans to send a woman to the Moon in 2024?

**Accept any response which indicates that the female astronauts may feel excited or happy about the plans. e.g. I think that they will feel excited because they want to go to space.**

3. Do you think that SpaceX will send 12,000 satellites to create an Internet network in space? Explain your answer with evidence from the text.

**Accept any reasonable response which highlights that 12,000 is a large number and higher than what they have sent previously. E.g. I think that they will because they have sent 9,000 before but technology has improved so they will be able to.**

4. In the paragraph beginning ‘Space & Telescope magazine,’ why do you think the author of the article chose to include the following fact? ‘each satellite is around the size of a table’

**Accept any response which suggests that the author of the article selected the description to help the reader imagine and understand the size of the satellites.**

5. What is meant by the phrase ‘watch this space’?

**Accept any answer which refers to the meaning keep an eye out for further details of the story and that it is a pun about space. E.g. The phrase means keep following the story to see what happens.**

6. Which of the following alternate headlines does not summarise the article?

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