1. How did Armstrong describe the surface?

Very fine powder, into which his feet sank about one eight of an inch.

1. What was the name given to the lunar landing module?

Eagle

1. What time did the landing module touch down on the Moon?

9:17pm

1. Where was Mission Control based?

Houston

1. Why was landing site called Tranquillity Base?

It was located close to the Sea of Tranquillity.

NB: Whilst it is called a sea, there is no water. When we look at the moon some areas appear to be darker than others, these dark areas were named seas as it was originally thought that’s what they were, however, the darkness was actually caused when the Moon had volcanic activity, a long time ago!

1. Why did they land 4 miles away from where they originally intended to land?

The planned site turned out to contain huge boulders of rock, which would have made it unsafe to land.

1. Why was it important that Aldrin had to “lean in the direction he wanted to go…”?

The low gravity environment meant that walking ‘normally’ led to ‘lurching around like someone slightly inebriated’.

1. Do you think the astronauts were excited? What evidence is there in the text to support your opinion?

Either answer could be marked as ‘correct’ provided it is supported with evidence from the text.

Evidence suggesting that they were excited:

* Mundane things were commented on enthusiastically. These included, leaving footprints, finding a rock and walking about.
* Aldrin described the environment as beautiful despite there being a ‘desert’ like scene. He was clearly immediately fond of the place.
* They had waited 3 hours since landing for the decision to be made about whether they could venture out on to the Moon’s surface.

Evidence suggesting they were not excited:

* Casual, calm voices used in communications between astronauts and Mission Control.
* Aldrin describes it as looking like a desert.
* The astronauts seem to just get on with their jobs of carrying out experiments and tests.

1. What do you think Aldrin thought of the Moon? Why?

Some may say he liked it, others may say he disliked it, either answer could be marked as ‘correct’ provided it is supported by evidence from the text.

Evidence suggesting Aldrin liked it:

* He said it has a “harsh beauty all of its own.”
* He seems to be enjoying the experience of walking in the low gravity environment.
* He seems quite excited by finding a purple rock.

Evidence suggesting Aldrin was unimpressed:

* He describes the Moon’s beauty as “harsh”.
* He didn’t immediately leave the landing module, he followed Armstrong 19 minutes later. Was this because he told to wait or because he was not excited?