

Name _____

Date _____

Chronological Structure

A pattern of organization is the particular arrangement of ideas and information. Authors of history texts often use the **chronological order** organization to arrange events by their order of occurrence-what happens first, next, then, and finally. When reading history texts, pay attention to dates, times, and words and phrases that signal sequence, such as before, meanwhile, later, and after that.

Read the following historical account and answer the questions.

The First Moon Landing

The journey to land humans on the moon began in May 1961 when President John F. Kennedy announced the goal of sending an American to the moon before the end of the decade. In the following years, NASA developed the Apollo program to achieve this ambitious target. By early 1969, after several test missions in Earth and lunar orbit, NASA was ready for a landing attempt. On July 16, 1969, Apollo 11 launched from Kennedy Space Center in Florida with three astronauts aboard: Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins.

Four days later, on July 20, the lunar module named Eagle separated from the command module Columbia. While Collins remained in orbit around the moon, Armstrong and Aldrin began their descent to the lunar surface. At 4:17 p.m. Eastern Time, Armstrong radioed

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back to Mission Control: "The Eagle has landed."

Six hours after landing, Armstrong climbed down the ladder and became the first human to step onto the moon's surface. His famous words, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," were heard by millions watching on television.

Aldrin joined Armstrong shortly after, and together they spent about two and a half hours collecting samples and conducting experiments. Before departing, they planted an American flag and left a plaque that read: "Here men from the planet Earth first set foot upon the moon. July 1969 A.D. We came in peace for all mankind."

On July 21, the Eagle lifted off from the moon to rejoin Collins in the Columbia. Three days later, on July 24, all three astronauts returned safely to Earth, splashing down in the Pacific Ocean.

1. Identify three key events in this passage and arrange them in chronological order.

2. How does the author use time markers to organize the information?

3. What was the first step in the journey to the moon mentioned in this passage?

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Chronological Structure-Answer Key

1. Identify three key events in this passage and arrange them in chronological order.

President Kennedy announces the goal to reach the moon (May 1961); Apollo 11 launches from Kennedy Space Center (July 16, 1969); Armstrong steps onto the moon's surface (July 20, 1969).

2. How does the author use time markers to organize the information?

The author uses specific dates and times ("May 1961," "July 16, 1969," "Four days later," "Six hours after landing") and sequential words ("began," "following years," "shortly after") to show the order of events and create a clear timeline.

3. What was the first step in the journey to the moon mentioned in this passage?

The first step was President Kennedy's announcement in May 1961 setting the goal of sending an American to the moon before the end of the decade.