

Neil Armstrong (5 August 1930 – 24 August 2012) – First Man on the Moon



Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed the Lunar Module "Eagle" on the lunar surface on 20 July 1969. Armstrong was first out of the craft and made the famous statement "one small step for (a) man, one giant leap for mankind" as he left the first footprints on the moon. The two astronauts collected lunar materials whilst their colleague Michael Collins circled the moon in the Command Module "Tranquillity Base". Armstrong and Aldwin left a plaque at the landing site that read "Here men from the planet Earth first set foot upon the moon in July 1969 AD. We came in peace for all mankind" The men also planted an American flag.

Their landing excited the imaginations and aspirations of people across the globe. Many countries, other than America, marked the occasion with a special edition of stamps – as is the case with the below set from Dominica.

After his return Armstrong was awarded many honours including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the NASA Distinguished Service Medal and the Congressional Gold Medal. He was a modest man, often described as a reluctant American Hero.

When once asked what it felt like to have his footprints remain on the moon's surface for thousands of years Armstrong said " I kind of hope that somebody goes up there one of these days and cleans them up".

