



Michael Collins: The Man Who Stayed in Space

Reading Worksheet — Elementary (Level C) |
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Most people know the names Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. They were the first two men to walk on the **Moon** in 1969. But there was a third man on that trip. His name was Michael Collins.

Michael Collins had a very **important** job. He flew the **spaceship**, called Columbia, around the Moon. He waited there while Armstrong and Aldrin walked below. He was all **alone** for about a day.



Collins flew around the back of the Moon many times. When he was behind the Moon, he could not talk to anyone. He could not see Earth. He could not see his two friends. He was the most alone person in all of **history**!

Some people felt **sorry** for Collins. They said he missed his big **chance**. But Collins was not sad. He knew his job mattered. Without him, his friends could not come home.

After three days, Armstrong and Aldrin flew back up to Columbia. The three men were together again. They flew home to Earth as **heroes**. Michael Collins showed us that you do not always need to be first. Sometimes the most important job is the **quiet** one, and helping your **team** makes you a hero too.

A. Vocabulary

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. Moon ____ | a. all the things that happened in the past |
| 2. spaceship ____ | b. a brave person others look up to |
| 3. important ____ | c. a machine that flies into space |
| 4. alone ____ | d. a group of people who work together |
| 5. history ____ | e. not loud; making little noise |
| 6. sorry ____ | f. feeling sad for someone |
| 7. chance ____ | g. a time when you can do something |
| 8. hero ____ | h. the big round object we see in the night sky |
| 9. team ____ | i. something that matters a lot |
| 10. quiet ____ | j. with no other people |

B. True or False

- ___ 1. Michael Collins walked on the Moon.
- ___ 2. The name of the spaceship was Columbia.
- ___ 3. Collins was alone for about a day.
- ___ 4. Behind the Moon, Collins could still talk to his friends.
- ___ 5. Collins could see Earth from behind the Moon.
- ___ 6. Some people felt sorry for Collins.
- ___ 7. Collins was very sad about his job.
- ___ 8. Without Collins, his friends could not come home.
- ___ 9. The Moon trip happened in 1969.



C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: Moon, alone, hero, spaceship, important

- 1. Michael Collins flew the _____ around the Moon.
- 2. He was _____ for about a day.
- 3. Collins flew around the _____ many times.
- 4. His job was very _____.
- 5. Collins was a _____ too.

D. Comprehension Questions

- 1. What was Michael Collins's job on the Apollo 11 trip?
- 2. Why could Collins not talk to anyone when he was behind the Moon?
- 3. How long was Collins alone?
- 4. Why do some people say Collins was a hero?
- 5. What can we learn from Michael Collins's story?

E. Discussion Questions

1. Would you like to fly a spaceship around the Moon? Why or why not?
2. Is it okay to not be first? What do you think?
3. Tell about a time you helped your team, class, or family.



Answer Key

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A. Vocabulary: 1-h, 2-c, 3-i, 4-j, 5-a, 6-f, 7-g, 8-b, 9-d, 10-e

B. True/False: 1-F, 2-T, 3-T, 4-F, 5-F, 6-T, 7-F, 8-T, 9-T

C. Fill Blanks: 1. spaceship, 2. alone, 3. Moon, 4. important, 5. hero

D. Comprehension:

1. He flew the command module Columbia around the Moon and waited there while his friends explored the surface.
2. He was behind the Moon, which blocked the radio signal to Earth.
3. About one day — a little more than 21 hours.
4. Because without him, Armstrong and Aldrin could not have returned home; his quiet job kept the whole team safe.
5. You do not always need to be first or in the spotlight — the quiet, helping job can be just as important.

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