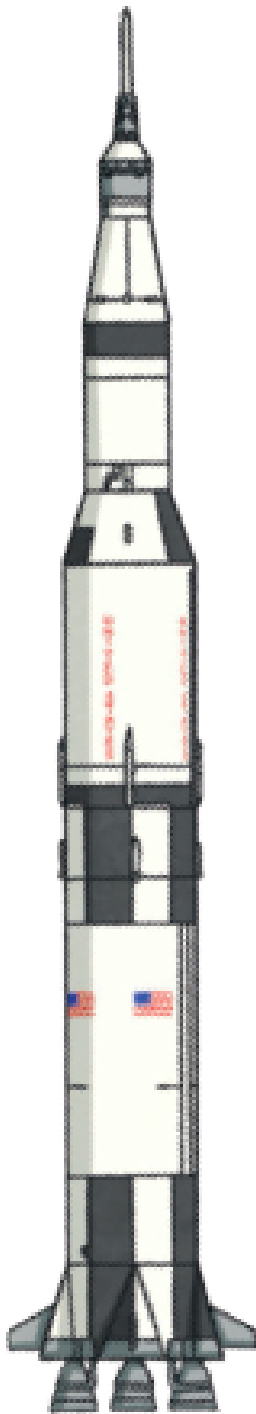


# Buzz Aldrin



Born in New Jersey on 20th January 1930, Buzz Aldrin followed in his father's footsteps in a military career before being selected by NASA to work on the Apollo missions. In 1966, he performed the first successful spacewalk and three years later, on 20th July 1969, he became one of the first two humans to set foot on the Moon.

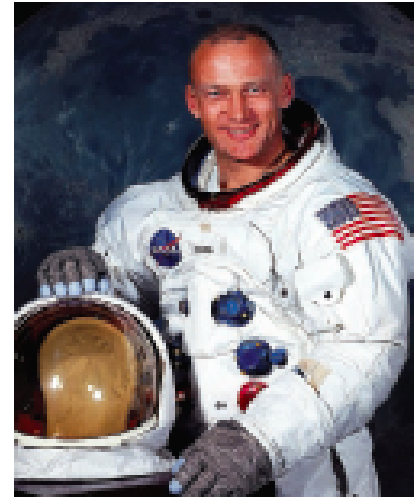


Photo by NASA

## Early Life

Aldrin's father was an air travel pioneer who inspired his son's future career with the US Air Force (USAF). As a child, his sister struggled to say 'brother', pronouncing it as 'buzzer' which was soon shortened to Buzz and became his childhood nickname. Buzz was a Boy Scout and was so successful at school that he graduated from high school a year early. Although he was offered a full scholarship from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), he turned it down in favour of the US Military Academy. Here he studied Mechanical Engineering and graduated third in his class. From there, he joined the air force and worked as a fighter pilot in the Korean War for which he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.



### Did You Know?

Buzz Aldrin's mother's maiden name was Moon!

### Did You Know?

In 1988, Buzz Aldrin finally changed his name legally.

# Buzz Aldrin

## NASA

After his time flying in Korea, Aldrin studied for a doctorate in astronautics at MIT and wrote about methods for spacecraft to come close enough to see each other or even 'dock' in order to hand over supplies or crew members. The methods he wrote about are still used for docking in space today. In 1963, he was selected by NASA to be an astronaut and began his training. In 1966, he was the pilot for the Gemini 12 mission during which he completed the world's first successful spacewalk and set a record of 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours spent on spacewalks. He also took a famous 'selfie' which showed the Earth reflected in the visor of his spacesuit. In 1969, alongside Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin stepped out of the Apollo 11 space shuttle onto the surface of the Moon. Around 600 million people all over the world watched the Moon landings on TV – the largest television audience in history at the time.

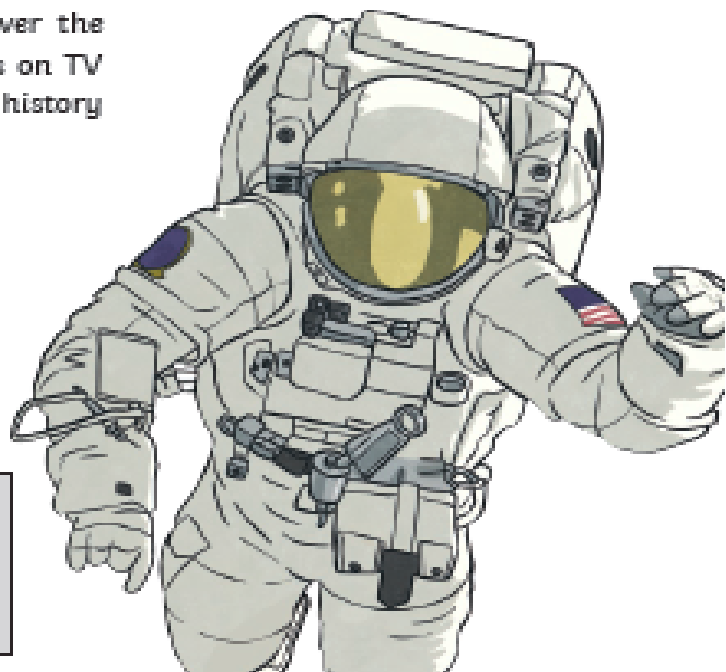
### Did You Know?

Buzz Aldrin has recorded his own voice for two episodes of *The Simpsons* in which he features!



## Life after NASA

Aldrin retired from NASA but continued to work as a manager for USAF. He has written 9 books including two autobiographies and a children's book about Mars. He continues to support space exploration and encourage science and technology education for children and spark their curiosity in space travel.



# Questions

**Buzz Aldrin**

1. Where and when was Buzz Aldrin born?

---

---

2. What did Buzz Aldrin do in July 1969?

The first successful spacewalk .....

Pilot Apollo 11 .....

Walk on the Moon .....

Join NASA .....

3. How did Buzz Aldrin become known as Buzz?

---

---

---

4. Where did Buzz Aldrin complete his mechanical engineering degree?

Massachusetts Institute of Technology .....

New Jersey .....

Korea .....

US Military Academy .....

5. What record did he set in 1966?

---

---

---

---

# Questions

**Buzz Aldrin**

6. How many people watched the Moon landings on television?

600 million .....

60 million .....

600 billion .....

6 million .....

7. Which of these has he done since he retired from NASA?

Written 2 books and designed a space shuttle .....

Written 9 books and worked as a manager for USAF .....

Starred in 9 films and written a children's book .....

Designed a space shuttle and travelled to Mars .....

8. Which TV programme has Aldrin provided voice-over for?

---

---

---

---