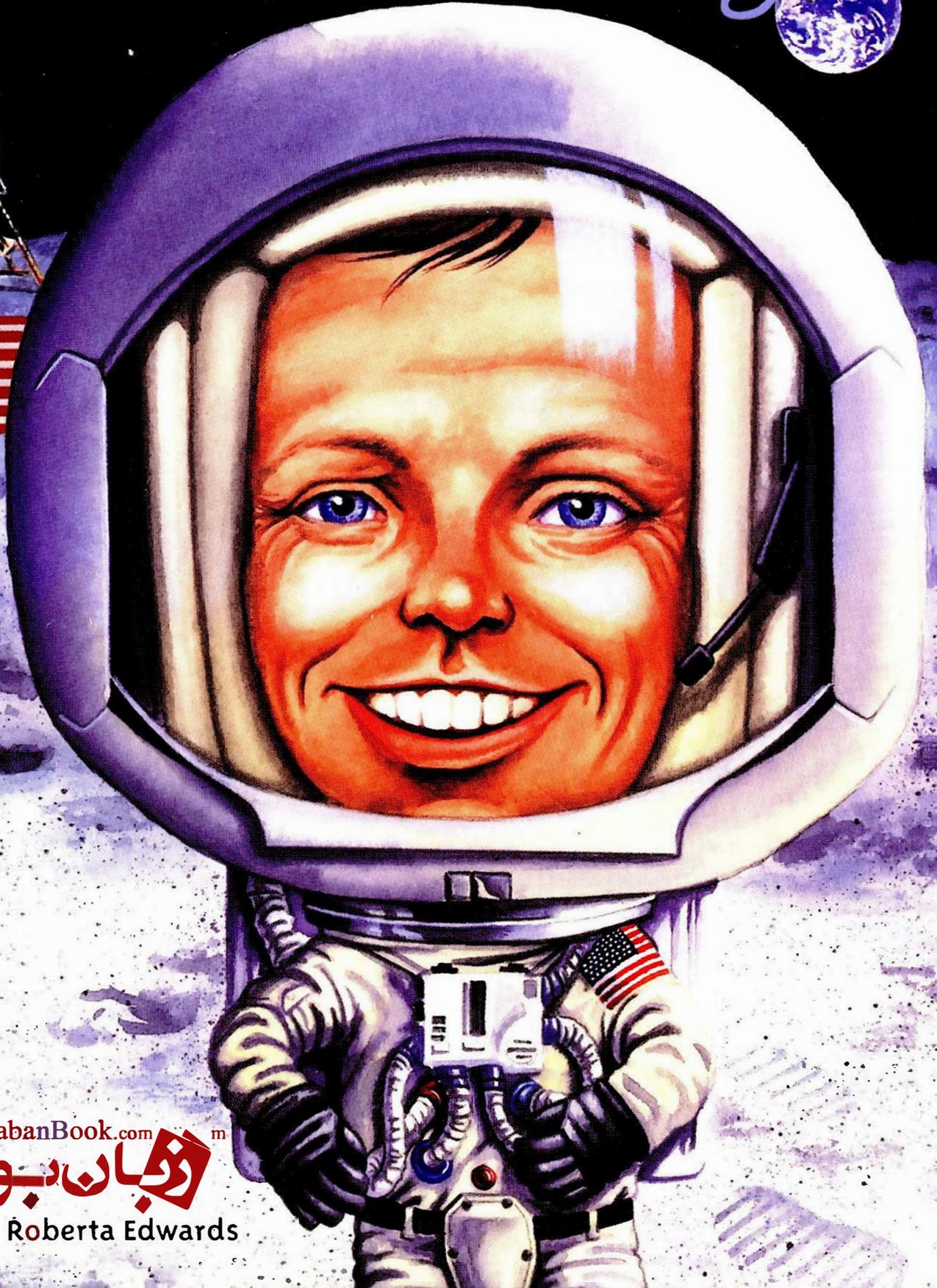


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# Who Was Neil Armstrong?

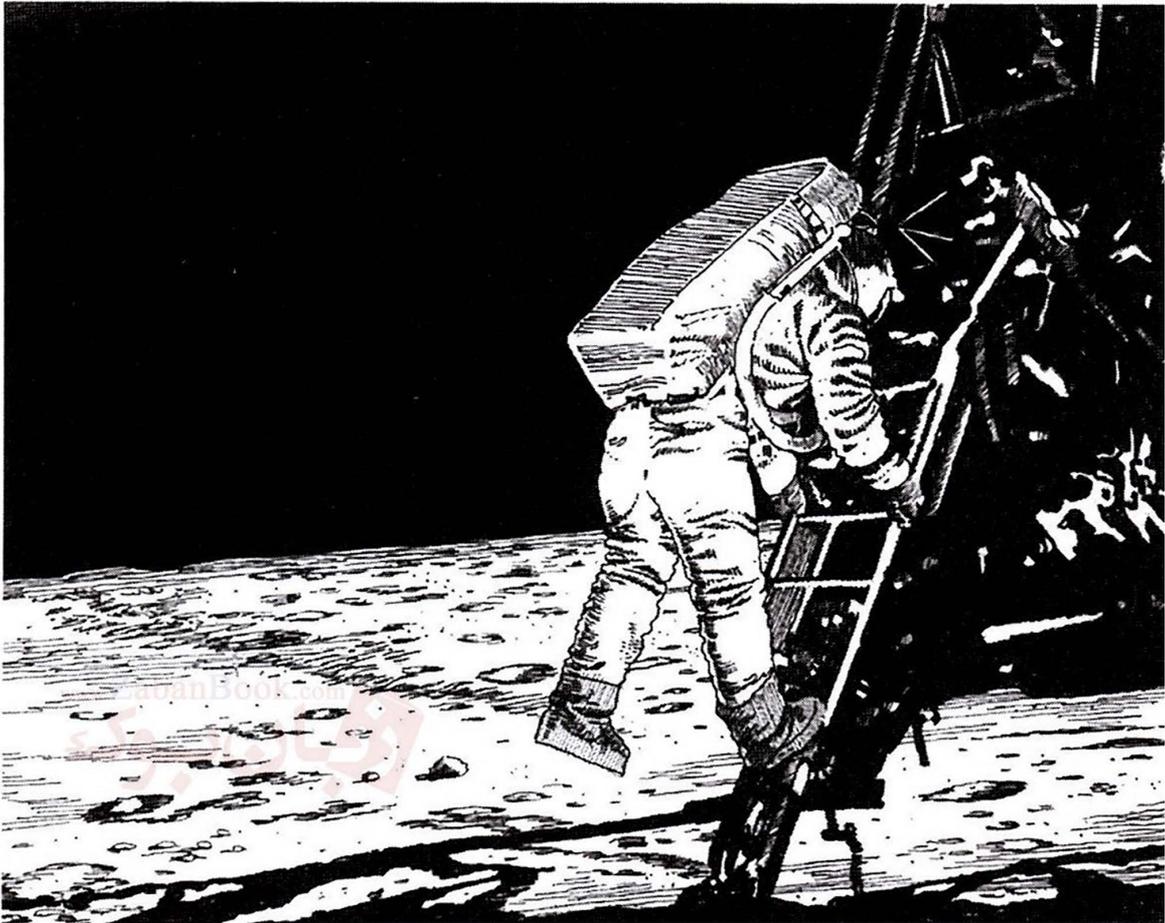


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by Roberta Edwards

# Who Was Neil Armstrong?



# Who Was Neil Armstrong?

by Roberta Edwards

illustrated by Stephen Marchesi

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For my father and to those for whom  
the journey is the destination—SM

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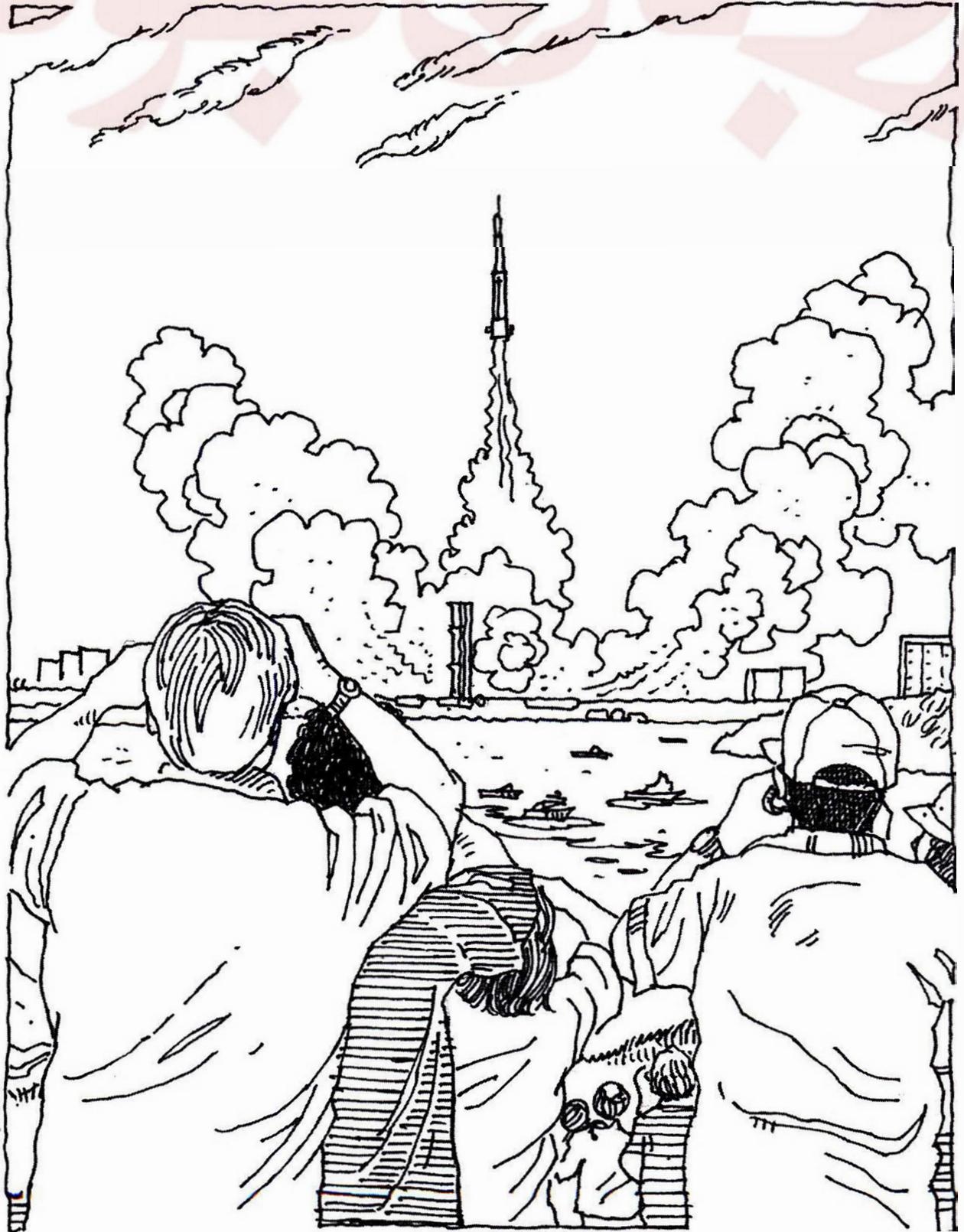
## Who Was Neil Armstrong?

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It is July 16, 1969. By 9 A.M. the temperature hits a whopping ninety degrees. That's just a typical summer morning in central Florida. The heat does not stop a crowd of a million people from coming as close to Cape Kennedy as they can get. That is where the United States will launch a spacecraft in just a little while. Carloads of people line the roads for miles. Hundreds of boats bob in the waters just offshore. The beaches swarm with people. Everyone hopes to get a glimpse of the *Apollo 11* spacecraft as it soars off into the heavens.

Two thousand reporters are in the press area, ready to write headline stories for their newspapers. In special stands nearest to the launchpad at Cape Kennedy are many members of Congress, the U.S.

vice president, and many famous names in show business and sports.

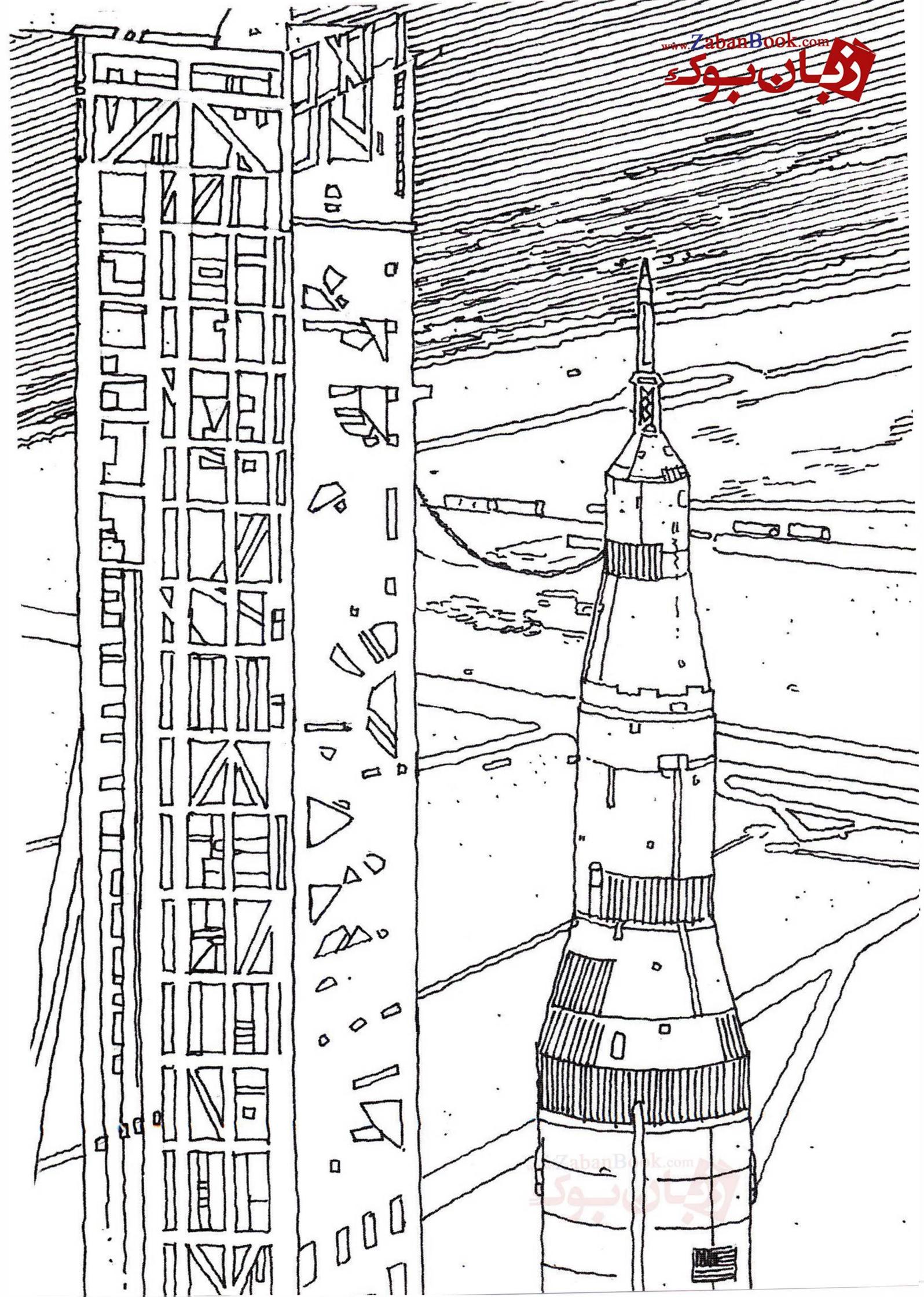


Among all these important people are two young boys, twelve-year-old Rick and six-year-old Mark Armstrong. They stand close to their mother, Janet, who looks as nervous and excited as they do.

Like everyone else, the boys are watching the giant needlelike rocket. It stands thirty stories high.

At the very top is a space capsule; three astronauts are inside. One of them is the boys' father. His name

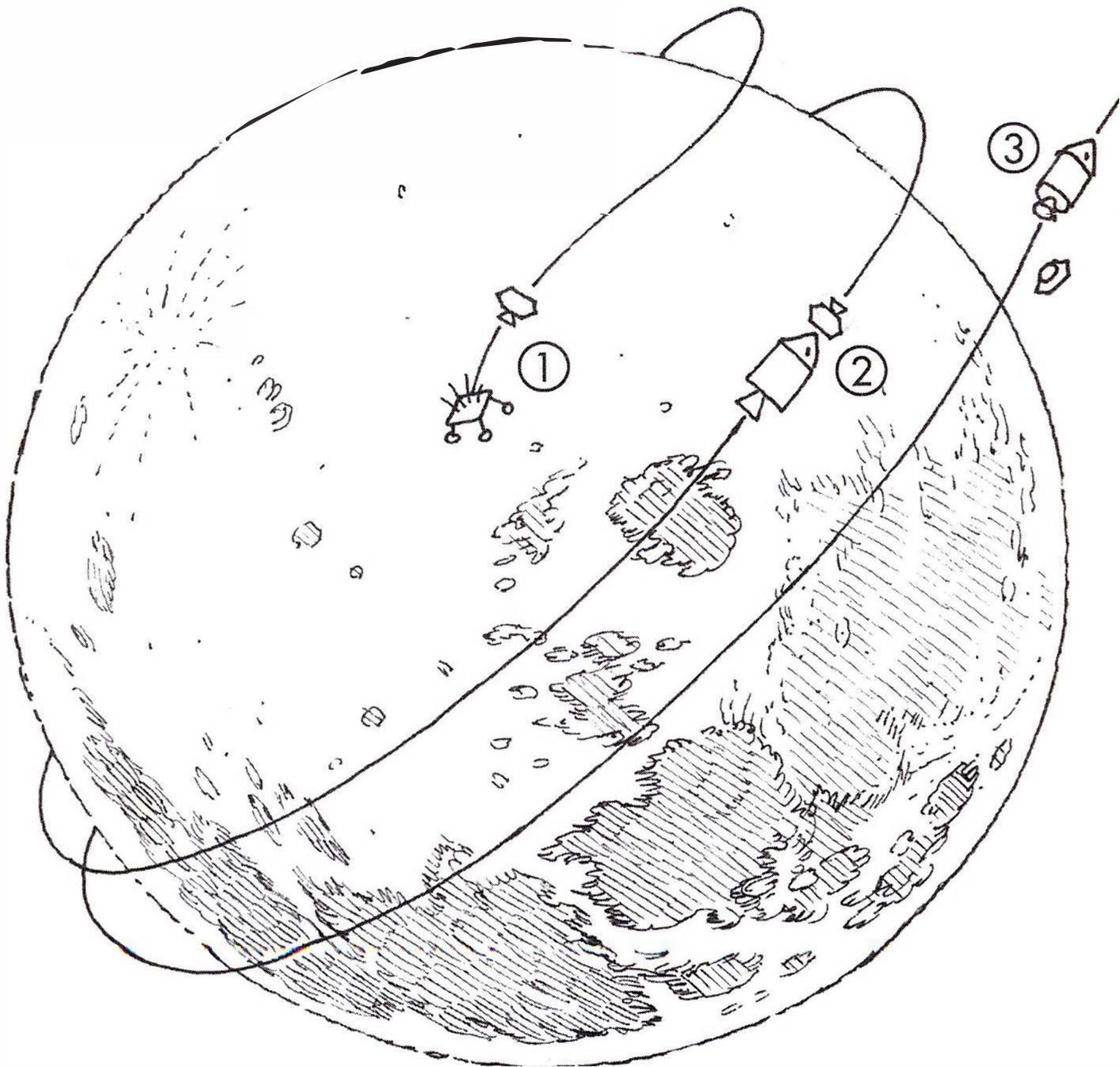




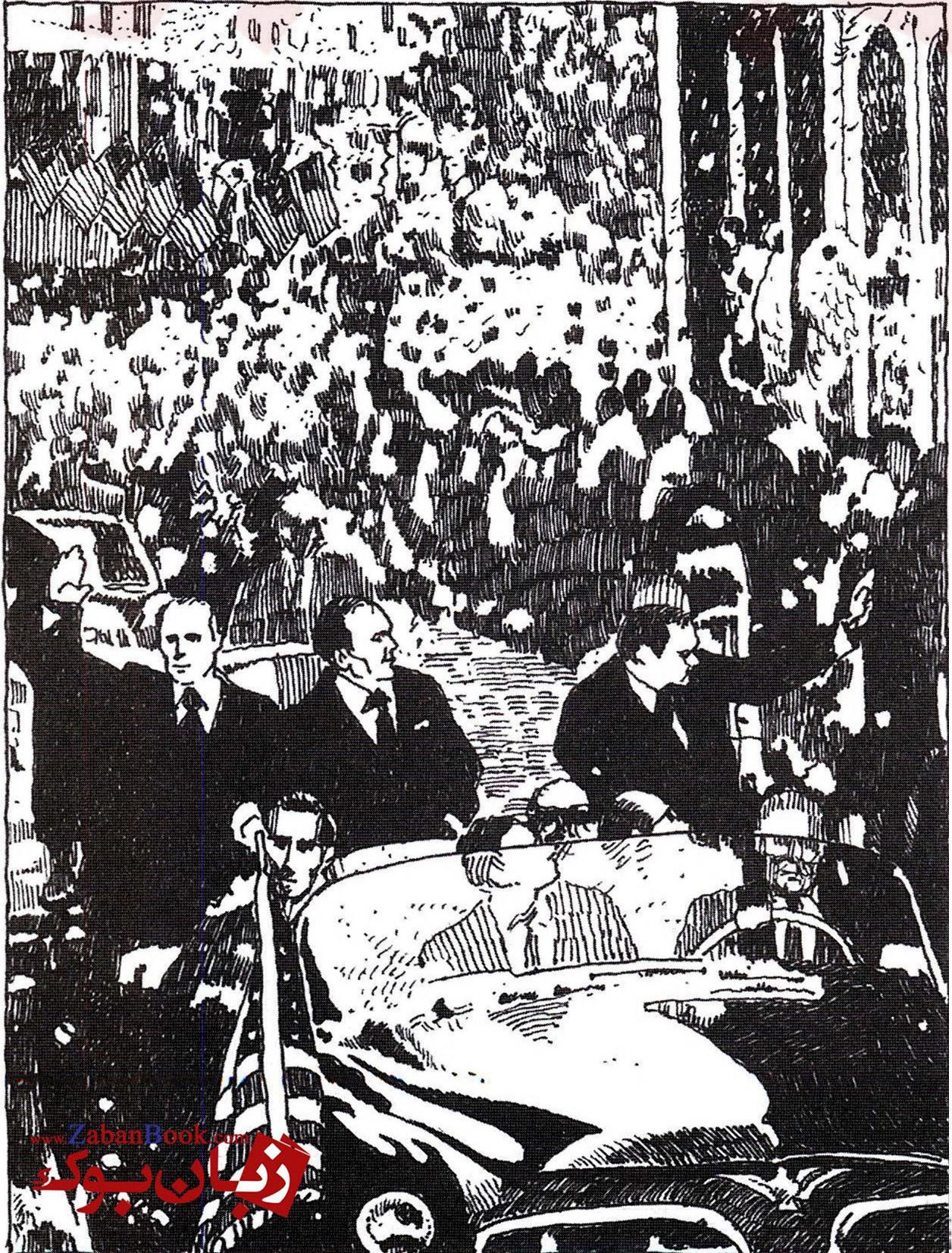
is Neil Armstrong. He is the commander of this space mission—*Apollo 11*. And if all goes well, in four days he will become the first person to set foot on the moon . . . but that is a big *if*. No spacecraft has ever tried to land on the moon before. What if *Apollo 11* makes it to the moon but then can't get back to Earth? . . . So many things could go wrong.

*Apollo 11* may either make history or end in tragedy.

# THE RETURN TRIP



United States, they visited twenty-one other countries on what was called the Giant Leap Tour. The *Apollo 11* astronauts were world famous, Neil Armstrong most of all.



Neil had never liked attention. He was happiest soaring above Earth, flying in a plane. In the years after his trip to the moon, he tried to live a much quieter life.

He became a professor at a college in Ohio. He bought a farm. Sadly, he and Janet were divorced after thirty-eight years of marriage. Neil got married again to a woman named Carol Held Knight, who also enjoys flying.



During the years of the Apollo space program, which ended in 1972, ten other astronauts walked on the moon. NASA does not have plans to send more people to the moon. Yet the first trip there remains an important event, a great human achievement.

Neil Armstrong died on August 25, 2012. He was a modest man who felt he did not deserve all the fame. He always said that he was part of a great team. He was not talking just about the two other Apollo 11 astronauts. He meant all the people at NASA who made the dream of reaching the moon possible.

# TIMELINE OF THE WORLD

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Charles Lindbergh makes first transatlantic flight, from Long Island to Paris   | 1927 |
| The stock market crashes, triggering the Great Depression of the 1930s  | 1929 |
| Adolf Hitler becomes chancellor of Nazi Germany   | 1933 |
| World War II begins after Hitler's forces invade Poland   | 1939 |
| After the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, the U.S. joins the war  | 1941 |
| World War II ends   | 1945 |
| The Cold War between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. begins   | 1957 |
| <i>Sputnik I</i> is launched into space by the U.S.S.R.   | 1960 |
| Martin Luther King Jr. makes his "I Have a Dream" speech at the civil rights march on Washington, D.C.<br>President John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas | 1963 |
| Beatlemania hits the U.S.   | 1964 |
| The country becomes more divided over the Vietnam War   | 1967 |
| Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated in April<br>Robert F. Kennedy is assassinated in June  | 1968 |
| The Woodstock rock music festival goes on for three days in August  | 1969 |

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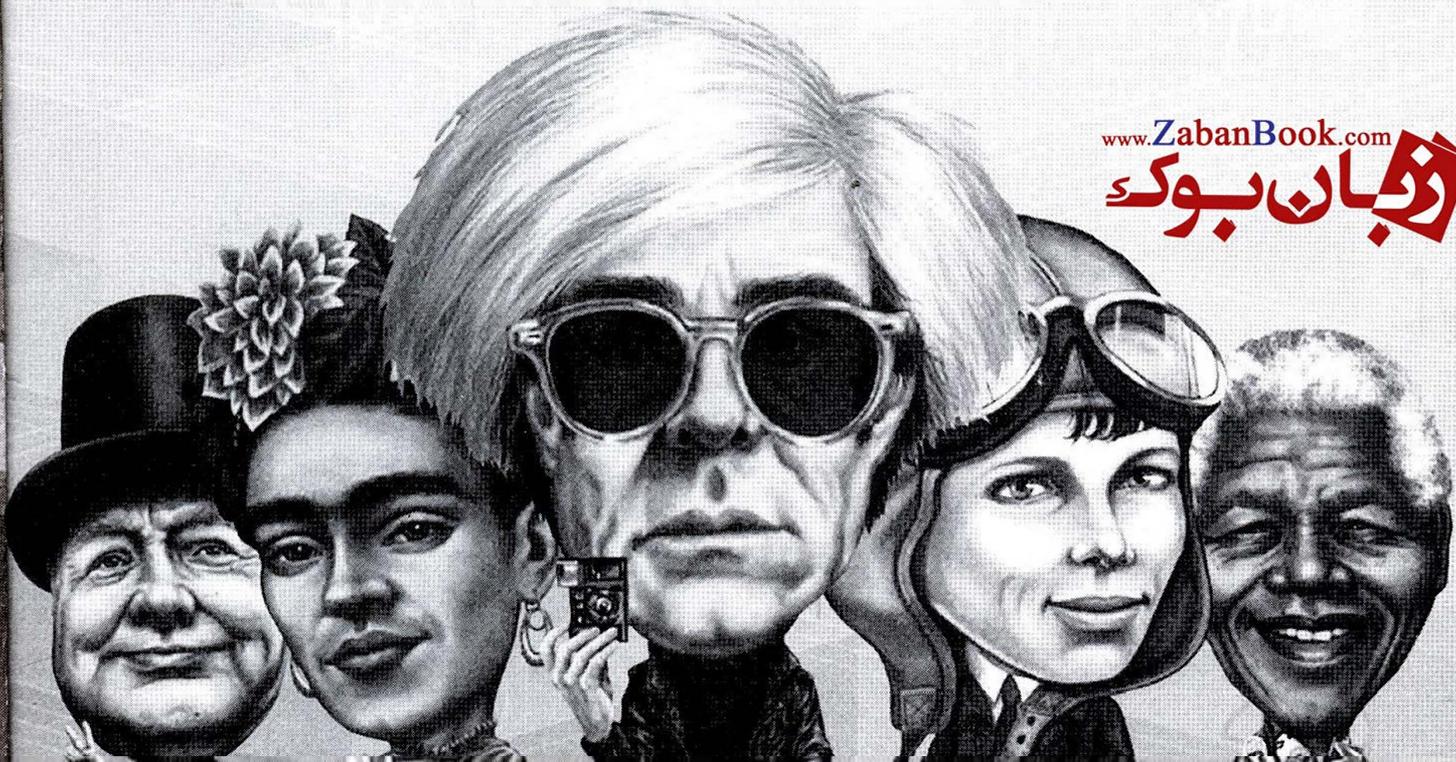
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# Who Was Neil Armstrong?

- A boy who loved to make his own model planes
- A teenager who got his pilot's license before his driver's license
- The very first person to set foot on the moon
- ✓ **All of the above!**

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