

# Michael Collins

## Who is Michael Collins?

- Michael Collins was an astronaut.
- He was American but was born in Italy.
- In 1952, he joined the American Air Force.



## Why Is He Famous?



He has travelled to space twice.

In 1966, he was part of the Gemini 10 mission.

In 1969, Michael Collins was part of the moon landing where people walked on the moon for the first time.

Michael Collins was the pilot and stayed inside the spacecraft.

In 1966, Michael Collins did a spacewalk.

## Space Shuttle

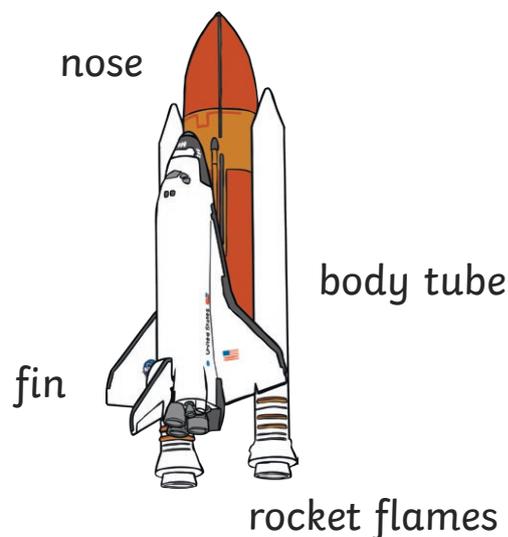


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# Questions

1. Tick the correct word to complete the sentence.

Michael Collins was \_\_\_\_\_ .

- Italian
- English
- American

2. When did he join the American Air Force?

- 1969
- 1966
- 1952

3. How many times did Michael Collins travel to space?

- twice
- once
- three times

4. When did people walk on the moon for the first time?

- 1960
- 1966
- 1969

5. Find and copy the name of one part of a rocket.

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# Answers

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 **1969**

5. Find and copy the name of one part of a rocket.

**Accept any answer from: rocket flames; nose; fin; body tube**

# Michael Collins

## Who is Michael Collins?

Michael Collins was born on October 31st 1930 in Italy. His father was serving in the army. For the first part of his life, he moved around the world with his family. Then, he moved to America where he finished school.



## What Is He Famous For?

Michael Collins visited space twice during the time he was an astronaut. Firstly, in 1966, he travelled to space during the Gemini 10 mission.



In 1969, along with two other astronauts, he travelled on a spacecraft called Apollo 11. The spacecraft landed on the moon and Neil Armstrong and Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin became the first two people to walk on the moon. Neil Armstrong took the first steps and said, "One step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Michael Collins remained on board the spacecraft.

Michael Collins was part of the third group of astronauts.

## Space Shuttle

- The nose helps the rocket travel faster.
- The body tube holds the rocket together.
- The fins make the rocket fly straight.
- Rocket flames come out of a rocket when it launches into space.

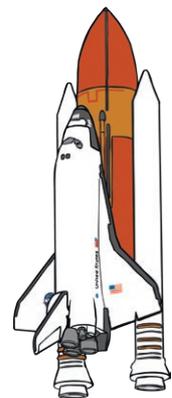


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# Questions

1. Why did Michael Collins live in different place when he was younger?

his father was in the army

he liked visiting places

he had a big family

2. Michael Collins was part of which group of astronauts?

second

third

first

3. In which year, was Michael Collins on board Apollo 11?

1969

1966

1930

4. Find and copy one word which means 'stayed'.

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5. Which part of a rocket makes it fly straight?

the nose

the body tube

the fins

# Answers

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2. Michael Collins was part of which group of astronauts?

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**third**

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3. In which year, was Michael Collins on board Apollo 11?

**1969**

1966

1930

4. Find and copy one word which means 'stayed'.

**remained**

5. Which part of a rocket makes it fly straight?

the nose

the body tube

**the fins**

# Michael Collins

## Who is Michael Collins?

On 31st October 1930, a man named Michael Collins was born in Italy. Both of his parents were American and his father was serving in the US army at the time of his birth. During the first seventeen years of his life, Michael Collins called many different places home due to his father travelling with the army. His family eventually settled in Washington, America, where he finished school.



## What Is He Famous For?

Firstly, on July 18th 1966, Michael Collins travelled in a spacecraft called Gemini 10 to space. During this mission with John Young, his camera drifted away into space.

Most famously, he is known for his second and final space mission in 1969 to the Moon when he was the pilot. During this mission, alongside Neil Armstrong and Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin, two of the astronauts set foot on the moon,

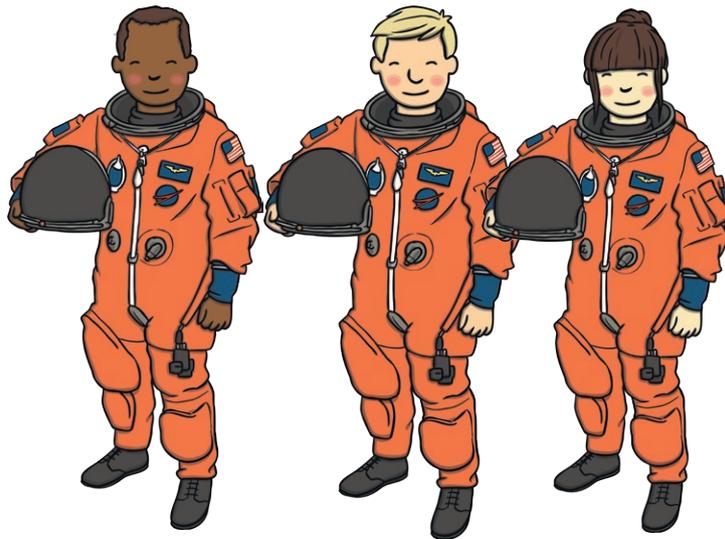
Michael Collins is often referred to as the 'forgotten astronaut.' People often forget his name but remember the other two astronauts.

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making world history. On July 21st 1969 at 03:15, Buzz Aldrin set foot on the moon's surface, following Neil Armstrong. This walk was televised and

viewed by approximately 600 million people. Michael Collins remained in the spacecraft for the full duration of the mission, circling the moon.

## Astronauts



- In 1961, Yuri Gagarin became the first person ever to reach space. He orbited Earth for 108 minutes.
- Astronauts have 20 months training to prepare themselves for space. They often train underwater to simulate the conditions in space.
- Animals have also visited space. In 1957, a dog named Laika, became the first living thing to travel to space. Unfortunately, he did not survive the journey.
- In 1961, Ham the chimp became the first living American to travel into space. He became known as 'Astrochimp'. He performed various tasks during the mission and then returned home safe.

# Questions

1. Why did Michael Collins call many places home in the first seventeen years of his life?

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2. Why did Michael Collins remain onboard Apollo 11?

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3. 'In 1969, world history was made.' What does this mean?

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4. Find and copy one word which means 'orbited'.

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5. Why do you think astronauts train underwater?

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6. Why do you think he is often known as 'the forgotten astronaut'?

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# Answers

1. Why did Michael Collins call many places home in the first seventeen years of his life?  
**Michael Collins called many different places home in the first seventeen years of this life because his father was in the army and they had to travel a lot.**
2. Why did Michael Collins remain onboard Apollo 11?  
**Michael Collins remained onboard Apollo 11 because he was the pilot.**
3. 'In 1969, world history was made.' What does this mean?  
**In 1969, world history was made because two people stepped on the moon for the first time ever.**
4. Find and copy one word which means travel around.  
**orbited**
5. Why do you think astronauts train underwater?  
**Astronauts train underwater because the conditions are similar to those in space.**
6. Why do you think he is often known as the forgotten astronaut?  
**Answers may vary. He is often known as the forgotten astronaut because he did not step on the moon. People may think he did not play as much of an important role during the mission, as the other two astronauts.**