



## Moonwalk!

### What is the Artemis programme?

- NASA wants to send astronauts back to the Moon by 2024.
- US President Donald Trump supports the programme and wants NASA to send astronauts to Mars.

Photo: A moon lander from a previous NASA mission.

## NASA Chooses Site for New Lander

**NASA** has chosen the Marshall Flight Centre in Huntsville, Alabama, to build a new **lunar** lander. This historic lander will take the first woman to the surface of the Moon by the year 2024.

So why has NASA chosen Huntsville? The city, located in the south of the USA, is famous for building rockets — it's even nicknamed 'The Rocket City'! The space centre has built important **spacecraft**, such as Saturn V.

In 1969, this rocket took Neil Armstrong, the first man on the Moon, into space.

It's a long time since someone last walked on the Moon — 1972 to be precise! Only 12 people, all Americans, have wandered across its surface.

The USA now wants to go back to Earth's natural **satellite**. NASA is working on the Artemis programme. It aims to send astronauts back to walk on the Moon by 2024.

The Moon, however, is not the final destination. Jim Bridenstine said on NASA's website that "we will use what we learn

on the Moon to take the next giant leap — sending astronauts to Mars". US President Trump supports the programme too, tweeting in May that "we [the USA] are going back to the Moon, then Mars".

The Marshall Centre is also making a megarocket called the Space Launch System (SLS). This spacecraft will take astronauts farther into space, connecting them with a space station called Gateway.

This latest news shows we could be entering an exciting time in space travel as humans look to the skies beyond our planet.

### Glossary

**NASA** National Aeronautics and Space Administration, in the USA.

**lunar** To do with the Moon.

**spacecraft** A vehicle used for travel in space.

**satellite** Something that orbits a planet.

# Questions

1. What is Huntsville's nickname? Tick one.

- ☐ Spaceville
- ☐ NASA's Town
- ☐ The Rocket City
- ☐ The Shuttle Town

2. What is the aim of the Artemis programme?

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3. How do you think scientists will react to this news? Explain your answer.

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4. '1972 to be precise!'

In this sentence, what does the word 'precise' mean? Tick one.

- ☐ exact
- ☐ unclear
- ☐ confused
- ☐ muddled

5. Do you think NASA will be able to send astronauts to the Moon again by 2024? Explain your answer.

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6. In the introduction, find and copy a phrase that shows the author thinks this lander is really important.

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7. Summarise the story in 15 words or fewer.

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# Answers

1. What is Huntsville's nickname? Tick one.

- ☐ Spaceville
- ☐ NASA's Town
- ☒ **The Rocket City**
- ☐ The Shuttle Town

2. What is the aim of the Artemis programme?

**It aims to send astronauts back to walk on the Moon by 2024, before going on to Mars.**

3. How do you think scientists will react to this news? Explain your answer.

**Accept any reasonable answer which refers to the story, e.g. I think they will be excited as scientists will be able to find out more about the Moon.**

4. '1972 to be precise!'

In this sentence, what does the word 'precise' mean? Tick one.

- ☒ **exact**
- ☐ unclear
- ☐ confused
- ☐ muddled

5. Do you think NASA will be able to send astronauts to the Moon again by 2024? Explain your answer.

**Accept any reasonable answer that refers to the story, e.g. I think they will send astronauts to the Moon again by 2024 as they have got a lot of help from people, such as President Trump.**

6. In the introduction, find and copy a phrase that shows the author thinks this lander is really important.

**historic lander**

7. Summarise the story in 15 words or fewer.

**Accept any reasonable summary which is 15 words or fewer, e.g. NASA has chosen the Marshall Flight Centre to build a new lunar lander.**