

Neil Armstrong: The First Man on the Moon // Mike Goldsmith // 9780739844311 // 48 pages // Raintree Steck-Vaughn, 2001 // 2001

The first man on the moon wandered over to an area known as Little West Crater. It's unclear exactly what action Armstrong took in those moments, but Damien Chazelle's new biopic, *First Man*, depicts what scholars have long believed the astronaut did: He tossed a bracelet with the name of his daughter, Karen, who had died from a brain tumor at the age of two, into the crater. It's a pivotal and emotionally charged moment that takes some liberties with historical records (at least the ones that are public) in a movie so obsessively dedicated to accuracy. Screenwriter Josh Singer a Whilst Neil Armstrong wasn't the only man to potter around on the Moon's surface that day, he was officially the first. In the following short biography, we will take a look at Neil Armstrong's life and times and celebrate the man who would forever be known as "the first human to set foot on the Moon". Quite an honor. [Image Source: Wikimedia Commons].

Early Life. Neil Armstrong's love of flying was apparently sparked by his first trip to the Cleveland Air Races with his father. His father nurtured his son's passion for flying when he took him on his first airplane flight in a Ford Trimotor in July of 1936. Advertisement. A decision that was to catapult him into the history books forever. He served as a command pilot on his first mission, Gemini VIII. Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin give us the exclusive story of Apollo 11: from the earliest preparations to the final touchdown back on Planet Earth. Theirs is the inspiring tale of a truly heroic adventure. (The current gold standard is now David Harland's *The First Men on the Moon*, but this book presents more information tangential to the mission, such as the public atmosphere at the Cape, backgrounds of the crew, etc., whereas Harland's book focuses more acutely on the mission details.) I take a point off for the sloppy assemblage, the quickie book approach, and the lack of focus, but if you like your data unfiltered and unmentholated, this still ranks among the very best Apollo 11 histories available. ...more.

Neil Alden Armstrong (August 5, 1930 – August 25, 2012) was an American astronaut and aeronautical engineer, and the first person to walk on the Moon. He was also a naval aviator, test pilot, and university professor. A graduate of Purdue University, Armstrong studied aeronautical engineering; his college tuition was paid for by the U.S. Navy under the Holloway Plan. He became a midshipman in 1949 and a naval aviator the following year. He saw action in the Korean War, flying the Grumman F9F Panther – Neil turned out to be the best field geologist on the moon, he added. Until Apollo 17, of course. In 20 minutes or so, he collected a fantastic suite of samples. Before Apollo 11, even simple questions about the moon confounded scientists. For instance, how old was it, anyway? Once they started examining the 50 pounds of rocks and soil brought back by Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, the answer quickly became clear: very, very old. Dr. Schmitt said that had the Apollo program stopped then, with no additional landings, including his own, those first lunar samples would have been enough to forever reshape knowledge of the solar system. Armstrong collected two types of rocks: basalts, which are hardened pieces of lava, and breccias, which are fragments of older rocks fused together.