

Moon Evidence File

Compare words and numbers to explain a historic mission.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.7 "Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, as well as in words) in order to address a question or solve a problem."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the three sample-mass numbers in the table. In paragraph 2, underline the materials identified by the science report. In paragraph 3, underline the quoted words from the flight transcript. Compare what these three types of evidence contribute.

Apollo 11: More Than a Broadcast

- ① On July 20, 1969, Apollo 11's lunar module landed in the Sea of Tranquility. News coverage emphasized the first steps on the Moon, but NASA also planned to bring rocks and soil home. The table lists sample masses from three early Apollo missions. It provides a quantitative way to compare how much material scientists could study. Data source: NASA, Apollo by the Numbers, SP-4029 (2000).

LUNAR SAMPLES RETURNED BY SELECTED APOLLO MISSIONS

Mission	Sample mass, kilograms
Apollo 11	21.55
Apollo 12	34.35
Apollo 14	42.28

- ② NASA's 1969 Apollo 11 Preliminary Science Report (SP-214) described basalt, breccia, and fine soil among the returned material. Chemical and physical tests would help scientists investigate lunar history. Unlike a broadcast quote, this technical source focuses on research questions. It reports early findings, not every result from later study. The table shows how sample quantities differed among missions, but mass alone does not establish the scientific value of the materials or what researchers can learn from them.

- ③ The mission's public meaning appears in the flight transcript. When Armstrong stepped onto the surface, he said, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." The statement presents the landing as a shared human achievement. Read beside the table and science report, the transcript shows why Apollo 11 mattered both as a public event and as the beginning of research.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- ① How does the table compare the amount of material returned by Apollo 11 with the two later missions?

- ② What different kind of evidence does the NASA science report provide than the flight transcript provides?

- ③ Which source best supports the claim that Apollo 11 was seen as a shared human achievement? Use a detail from that source.

- ④ Why can sample mass alone not establish all of Apollo 11's scientific value? Use the table and the report in your answer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an 80-110 word museum label explaining why Apollo 11 was historically important. Use one number from the table, one detail from the science report, and one detail from the flight transcript.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle the three sample-mass numbers in the table. In paragraph 2, underline the materials identified by the science report. In paragraph 3, underline the quoted words from the flight transcript. Compare what these three types of evidence contribute. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the table compare the amount of material returned by Apollo 11 with the two later missions?	Apollo 11 returned 21.55 kg, compared with 34.35 kg for Apollo 12 and 42.28 kg for Apollo 14.
2	What different kind of evidence does the NASA science report provide than the flight transcript provides?	The report provides scientific information about the sample materials and their possible study. The transcript provides evidence of the landing's public and human meaning.
3	Which source best supports the claim that Apollo 11 was seen as a shared human achievement? Use a detail from that source.	The flight transcript. Armstrong called the step "one giant leap for mankind," presenting the event as important to humanity.
4	Why can sample mass alone not establish all of Apollo 11's scientific value? Use the table and the report in your answer.	The table shows how much material was returned, but the report identifies what the material was, basalt, breccia, and fine soil, and explains that tests could investigate lunar history.

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Apollo 11 changed history because it joined a public milestone with scientific investigation. Armstrong's words described the landing as a "giant leap for mankind," giving viewers a way to understand its human importance. The mission also returned 21.55 kilograms of lunar material. NASA's report identified basalt, breccia, and fine soil, materials that could be tested to investigate lunar history. Although Apollo 11 carried back less material than Apollo 12 or 14, its samples began a research effort that continued after the broadcast ended.

Accept responses that accurately distinguish the contribution of the numerical table, the technical report, and the transcript. For the museum label, require an accurate number and relevant details from both written sources, connected by a clear explanation. References: NASA, Apollo 11 Preliminary Science Report, SP-214 (1969); Richard W. Orloff, Apollo by the Numbers, NASA SP-4029 (2000); Apollo 11 flight transcript, July 20, 1969. The table is a later comparison, not a claim made in the 1969 report about future missions.