

Name _____

Buzzwords

Although the space shuttles are coming back down to Earth, NASA is over the moon about some of its other projects. Experts plan to study new ways to send humans back to the moon.

Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were the first astronauts to walk on the moon, in 1969. *WR News* spoke with Aldrin. As you read the interview below, think about its theme. That is the message that an author or speaker is trying to share with the reader. Then answer the questions.



Buzz Aldrin walks on the moon.

WR News: What was the most memorable part of walking on the moon?

Buzz Aldrin: There are two moments. One was just the second or two after we shut the engine down and we realized that the spacecraft was on the moon. That ... was the major [accomplishment]. When I was outside seeing the Earth, my other thought was that there were only three human beings who were not on Earth. [The third was Michael Collins, who was in the spacecraft.]

WR News: Will returning to the moon have the same effect as it did when you set foot there?

BA: No, I don't think there is any way you can replace that competitiveness [to reach the moon first] that existed [then]. We've been [to the moon] before, but it's preparing us to visit other planets.

WR News: Why do you think it's important that we send humans to Mars?

BA: We can send robots to Mars, but that wouldn't satisfy [our goals].

- What is the theme of Buzz Aldrin's interview?
 - U.S. astronauts should keep exploring space.
 - Astronauts will never make it to Mars.
 - NASA's most successful year was 1969.
- From the interview, we can assume that Aldrin is _____.
 - afraid
 - adventurous
 - worried
- Which of the following ideas does *not* support the theme of the interview?
 - Being the first nation to send people to the moon had a huge effect on our country.
 - Visiting the moon will help us to one day explore other parts of space.
 - It will be better when NASA can have robots do all space exploration.
- Which statement is a clue to Aldrin's amazement after he had landed on the moon?
 - "When I was outside seeing the Earth, my other thought was that there were only three human beings who were not on Earth."
 - "We've been [to the moon] before, but it's preparing us to visit other planets."
 - "We can send robots to Mars, but that wouldn't satisfy [our goals]."
- What might the theme of the interview be if Aldrin were against sending humans to space?
 - Sending more humans to explore space can help NASA meet important goals.
 - More humans should walk on the moon.
 - Robots can help us achieve more goals in space than humans can.

ANSWERS

Buzzwords

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. A
5. C