

Man in Space: Mission Training Student Activity Sheet- Apollo Mission

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

1. Read the following passage:

If you were going to the moon, what would you do before you left Earth? The Apollo astronauts spent a year and a half preparing for lift-off. Much of the astronaut training occurred at the newly constructed Johnson Space Center, a NASA facility built to house the Space Task Group (STG), which later became the Manned Spacecraft Center (MSC). Other NASA centers, and military bases had specialized training equipment and simulators, and the astronauts would travel to these centers to complement the training they underwent at Johnson Space Center.

Simulators that mimicked the extreme environments of space and the moon were designed, such as the Space Environment Simulation Laboratory at Johnson Space Center. Other simulators, such as the Lunar Landing Research Facility at NASA's Langley Research Center, were designed to simulate the lessened gravitational force of the moon. Other simulators taught the astronauts how to pilot and control their space modules. The intense training and preparation the astronauts underwent helped avert potential disasters during space missions.

2. What training would you want to have before you went to the moon? What kinds of challenges do you think you will encounter?

2. Open Mission Training web site:

http://gis.larc.nasa.gov/past_missions/edu_intro/studentpage.html

Read the instructions on this page. When you are ready to use the site, choose "Click to learn about Apollo Astronaut Training!" to enter the map.

**** There are many training sites in Houston, TX, but you can't see the different icons when looking at the map of the entire country. Click the "Houston, TX" button at the top of the page and the map will zoom to Johnson Space Center and Ellington Air Force Base, allowing you to see all of the sites!***

3. Answer the following questions using the Apollo Training Map:

1. Which geographic provinces contain training sites? What types of training activities occurred in each province? How many training activities occur in each province? (Hint: use the "Zoom in" and "Houston, TX" tools at the top of the page!)

Division	Training Activities	Number of Training Sites

2. Which province has the most training sites? Why do you think this province has the most training sites?

3. Why did astronauts need to learn about Earth's geology if they were collecting moon samples? (Hint: How did the moon form?)

4. Why did astronauts need to learn to dock the lunar module to the command module using visual aids? What visual aids do you think astronauts used when docking the lunar module to the command module?

5. What does Neutral Buoyancy mean? Why is it helpful to train an astronaut in a neutrally buoyant condition?

Answer the following questions using the Mercury Astronaut Training Map:

6. In what locations did both Mercury and Apollo astronauts train?

7. Why do you think the Apollo astronauts completed jungle and desert survival training and the Mercury astronauts completed desert survival training only?

8. What training did Mercury astronauts complete at Little Creek Amphibious Base in Virginia? How was this training different for Apollo astronauts? Where did Apollo Astronauts complete this training?

9. Which Mercury or Apollo training module do you think you would enjoy the most? Why?

10. Compare the training activities of the Mercury astronauts to the Apollo astronauts. In what ways were they similar? In what ways were they different?
