

Fun Facts

About the Apollo Moon Missions

There were twelve manned Apollo missions between 1967 and 1972. Six of them flew to and landed on the Moon. Two of them flew to and orbited the Moon, but did not land. Two more flew in orbit around the Earth to test the spacecraft and systems. One, Apollo 13, was supposed to land on the Moon but was crippled by an explosion on the way; however the astronauts flew around the Moon and returned safely to Earth. The first planned mission, Apollo 1, suffered a fire on the launch pad and astronauts Gus Grissom, Ed White, and Roger Chaffee were killed.

The first mission to fly to the Moon, but not land, was Apollo 8 in December 1968.

The first mission to land on the Moon was Apollo 11, on July 20, 1969—45 years ago!

Twelve men walked on the Moon between July 1969 and December 1972.

Twelve more men flew to or around the Moon, but did not land. Three of them went to the Moon twice!

The last Apollo mission to the Moon was Apollo 17 in December 1972.

The first man to walk on the surface of the Moon was Neil Armstrong. His Lunar Module Pilot, Buzz Aldrin, was the second.

The last man to walk on the Moon [so far!] was Gene Cernan. His Lunar Module Pilot, Harrison Schmitt, was the next-to-last.

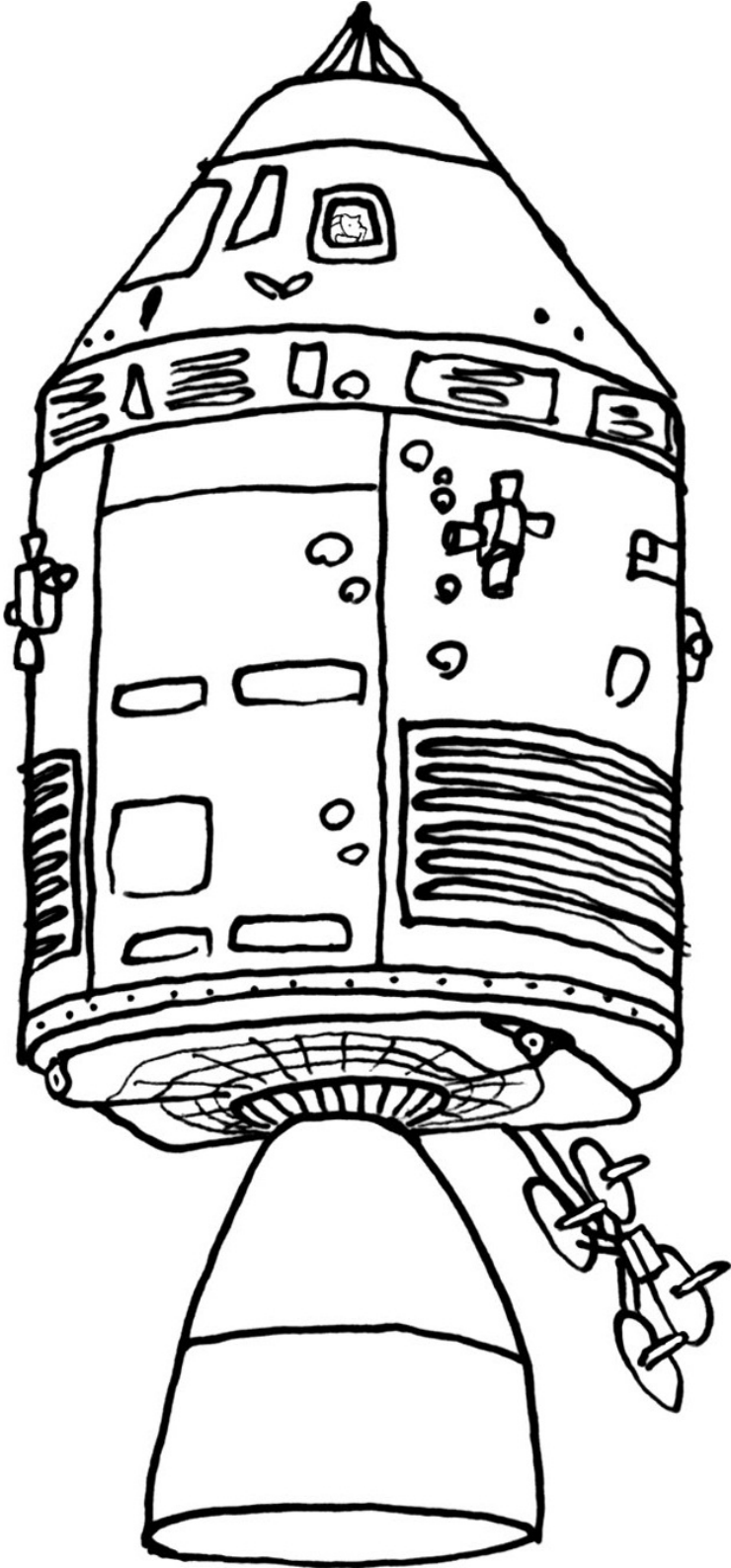
So—Who will be next?

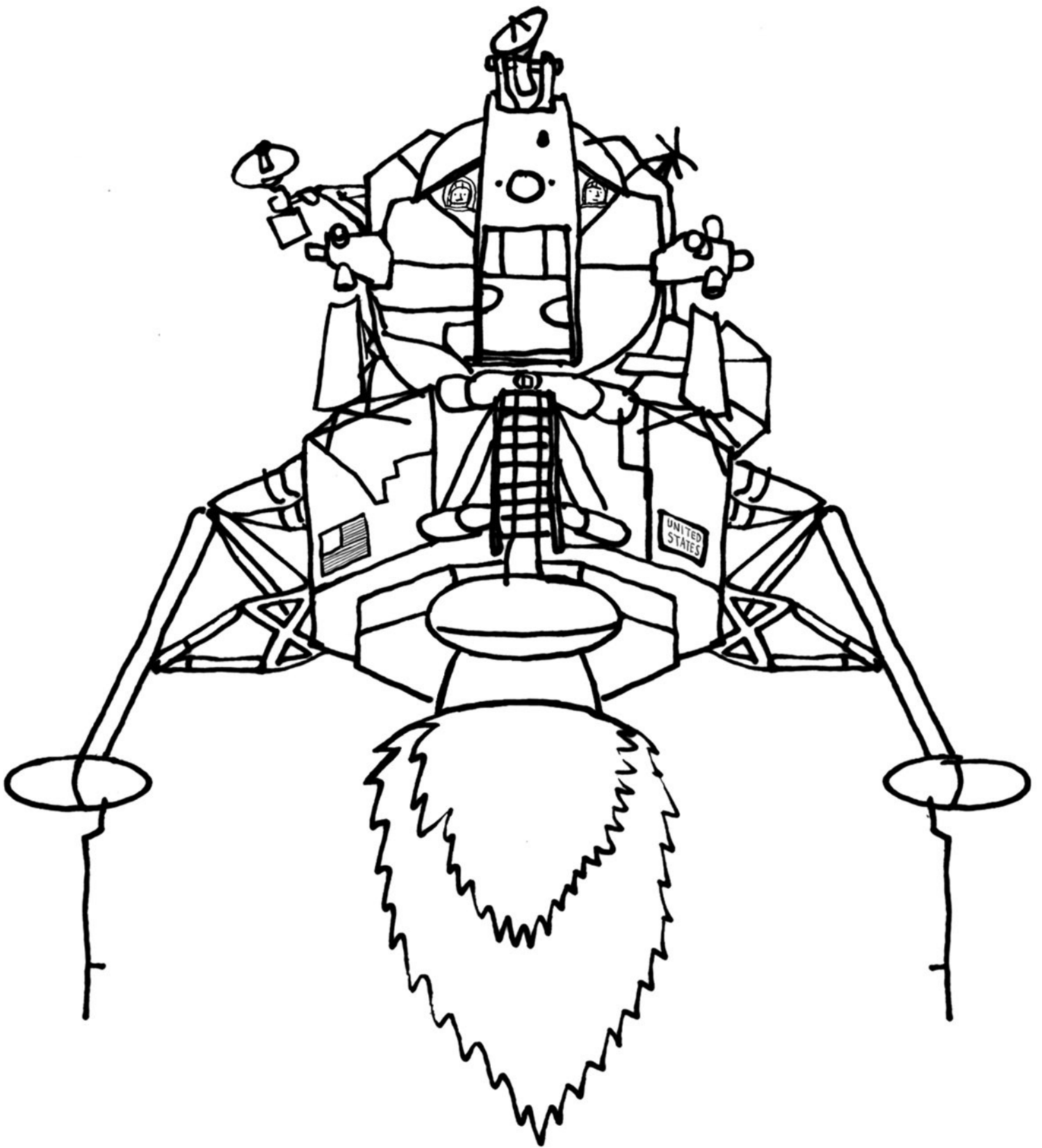
The Apollo Saturn V Moon rocket was as tall as a 35 story building! However, the only part which returned to Earth intact was the command module—which could probably fit in your bedroom!

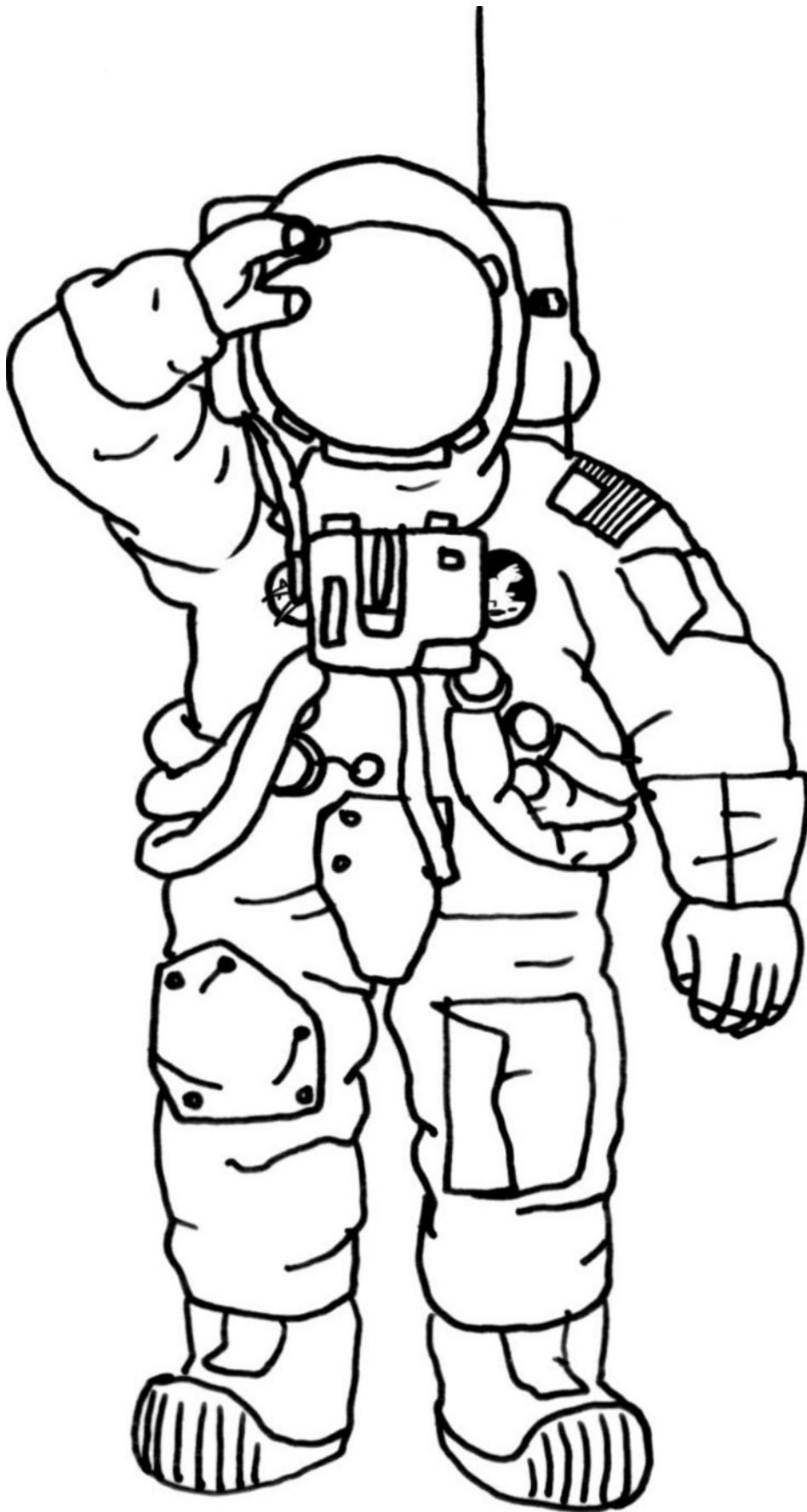
If you were to get in a car and try to drive as far as the astronauts flew going to the Moon, and you drove for ten hours a day, it would take you more than two years! It took the astronauts a little less than three days to fly there, each way.

Presented by the Clear Lake Area Chapter of the National Space Society and Moon Society: <http://www.nss-houston-moon.org>

With thanks to Brian Floca—<http://www.brianfloca.com/index.html>







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