

# APOLLO 11 & GIL SCOTT-HERON

Est. Time: 60-90 minutes

Subjects: ELA, History, Social Studies

Age Range: Middle & High School


See the full lesson [here!](#)

★ *TEACHROCK* ★



What was the Apollo 11 space mission and how did Gil Scott-Heron's "Whitey on the Moon" channel the resentment and disillusionment many Americans had towards the mission?

In this lesson you will:

- Identify the people and history of the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Apollo 11 mission
  - Identify Gil Scott-Heron as an American poet and musician
  - Explain Scott-Heron's critical view of the Apollo program through his song, "Whitey On The Moon"
  - Compare and contrast the celebration and criticism of NASA's Apollo program and Apollo 11 mission
  - Create your own poem and share it
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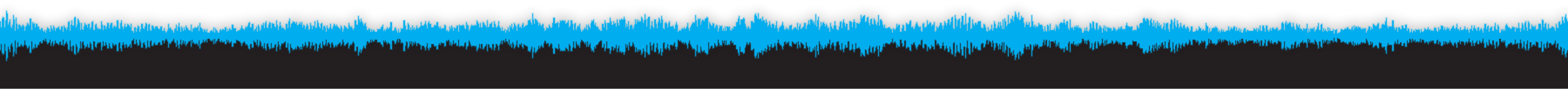


## THE MOON LANDING

Watch [this video](#) conveying the global significance of the Apollo 11 mission.



Consider or ask a friend:

- What was the Apollo 11 mission and why was it celebrated?
  - Was the Apollo 11 mission celebrated internationally? Why?
  - What were some of the reasons the mission was a remarkable achievement?
  - Who were the astronauts for the Apollo 11 mission?
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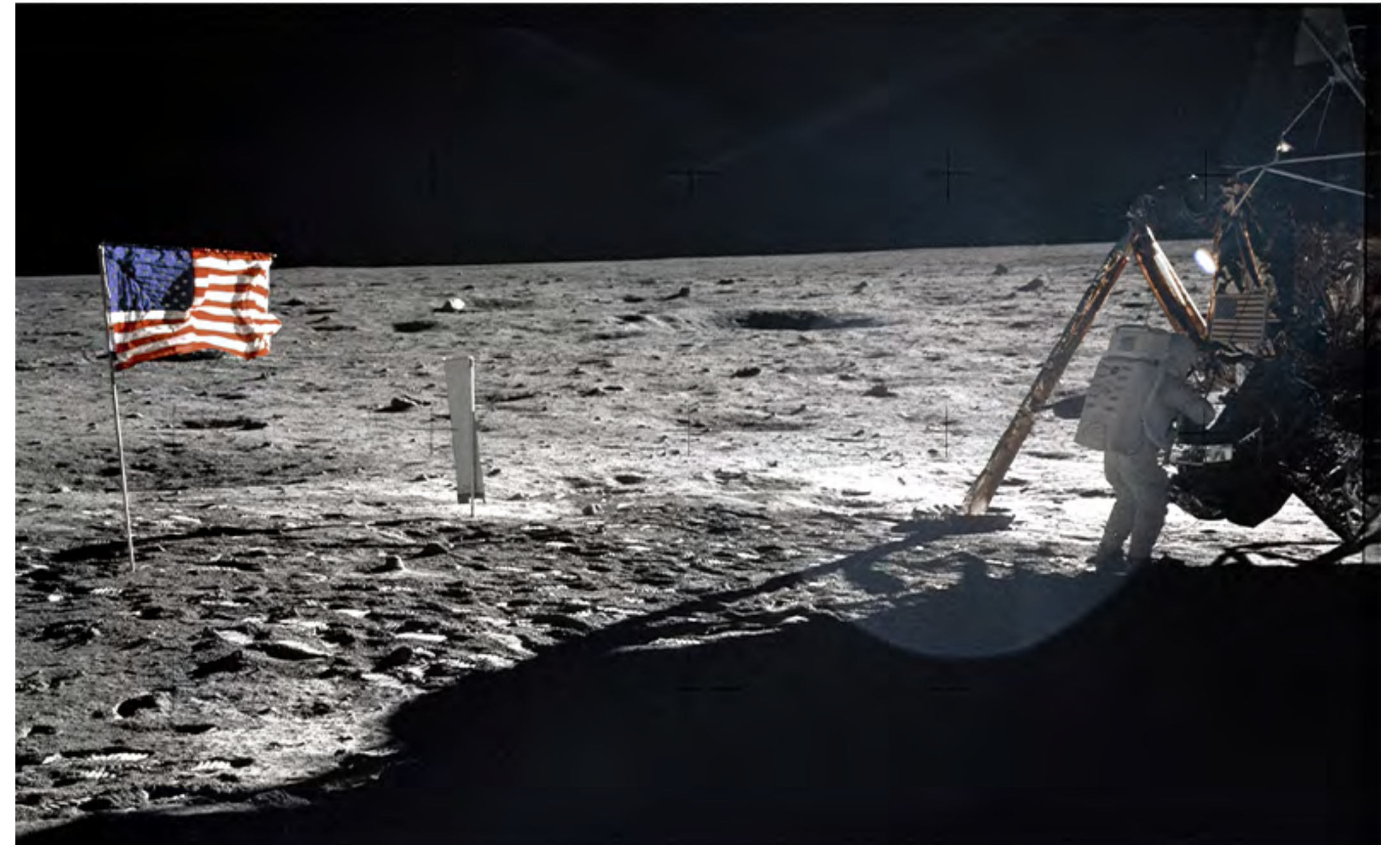
The U.S.'s NASA Apollo 11 mission landed the first humans on the Moon.

Apollo 11 astronauts: Neil A. Armstrong, commander; Michael Collins, command module pilot; and Edwin E. Aldrin Jr., lunar module pilot.

Astronaut Armstrong was the first human to step foot on the Moon on July 20, 1969, at 20:17 UTC.




Watch [this video](#) of Neil Armstrong stepping onto the Moon for the first time.





Consider or ask a friend:

- What is happening in this clip?
  - What might astronaut Neil Armstrong have meant when he said, “One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind”?
  - Who might be included in the term “mankind” from the quote? Who might be excluded?
  - Do you think all citizens of the U.S. were represented in the success of NASA’s Apollo 11 mission? Why or why not?
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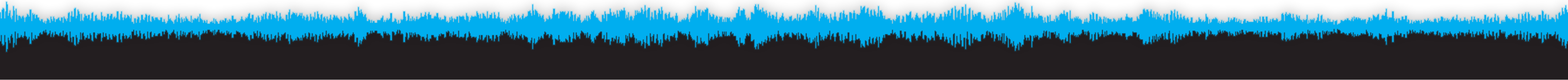
## WHITEY ON THE MOON



Watch [this video](#) of Gil Scott-Heron reciting his poem, “Whitey on the Moon.”





Consider or ask a friend:

- When Meshell Ndegeocello states, “You could never understand why there was such great poverty, yet you could send a man to the moon,” what might she be referring to?
  - Who might Scott-Heron be referring to when he says “whitey”?
  - When space historian Asif Siddiqi contrasts 125th and Lenox Avenue in New York City with NASA locations (Kennedy Space Center in Florida and NASA mission control center in Texas), what might he be suggesting?
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- Gil Scott-Heron was born on April 1, 1949 in Chicago, IL and died on May 27, 2011 in New York, NY.
  - He is an acclaimed and award-winning poet and musician.
  - A self-described “bluesologist,” his spoken word style and music is considered fundamental to the development of rap-styled vocals and the Hip Hop and Soul Jazz genres.
  - “The Revolution Will Not Be Televised,” “Whitey on the Moon,” “The Bottle,” and “Re-Ron” are some of his best-known songs and recordings.
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# SUMMARY

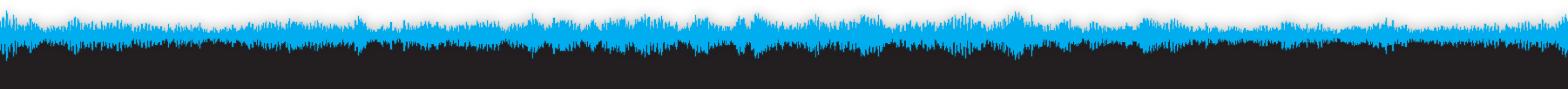
- The U.S.'s NASA Apollo 11 mission landed the first humans on the Moon
- Astronaut Armstrong was the first human to step foot on the Moon on July 20, 1969, at 20:17 UTC
- Gil Scott-Heron is an acclaimed and award-winning American poet and musician who was fundamental in the stylistic development of and performance techniques used in Hip Hop.



# BE CREATIVE

What is an issue that you consider an urgent need that may not currently be treated as a priority in your community?

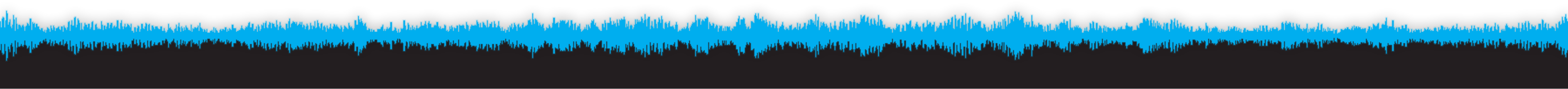
Research your choice, then write a poem, or compose a song, or draw/paint a picture explaining why it should be considered an urgent need. If it is a poem or song - record it with a voice memo app or make a video of you performing it! If it is a drawing or painting - take a picture of it!



# BE CURIOUS

Did all Americans support the Apollo program and its space missions?

- With **this handout**, read the article, watch the video clip, view the images, and then consider (or ask a friend) the Discussion Questions.
- Then, with **this handout**, read the article, watch the video clip, view the images, and then consider (or ask a friend) the Discussion Questions





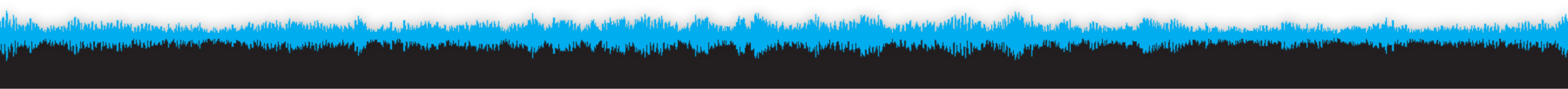
Consider or ask a friend:

- The Apollo 11 mission captivated the world, but was the Apollo program a necessary national endeavor, or could those resources have been used to address other needs in America?



# CONNECT

Share it with us! Either you or an adult in your life can share your work with TeachRock on [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#), email to [info@teachrock.org](mailto:info@teachrock.org), or Tweet it to [@TeachRock](#)





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