

SCIENCE AT WORK

A chance to meet an astronaut Gene Cernan

WHO WAS GENE CERNAN? WHAT DID HE DO?

Gene Cernan was an American astronaut. He led the Apollo 17 mission in 1972; this was the last time humans landed on the moon. Gene did science at school before going on to study electrical engineering at college. He joined the navy as a fighter pilot and rose to the rank of Captain before being selected by NASA to train as an astronaut. During the mission in Apollo 17, he spent three times as long exploring the moon from outside the spacecraft as Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin had in 1969. He covered more than 35 km in the lunar roving vehicle, setting a new lunar land speed record of 18 km/hour!



This is a picture of Gene Cernan on the moon in 1972. He became known as 'The last man on the moon.'

Why do you think this is?

What else could you find out about Gene Cernan?

- * How much time did he spend on the moon? What did he do there?
- * What did he bring back from the moon?
- * What training did he need to become an astronaut?
- * What other space missions did he take part in?
- * How does a lunar roving vehicle work? What does it look like?

FIND OUT MORE

NASA website - Lots of information and pictures, including the famous 'Blue Marble' photo of planet Earth, and a video of Gene Cernan walking on the moon.

The Houston Chronicle - Discover more about the records set by Gene Cernan.

Important note: The Primary Science Teaching Trust is not liable for the actions or activity of any person who uses the information in this resource or in any of the suggested further resources. The Primary Science Teaching Trust assumes no liability with regards to injuries or damage to property that may occur as a result of using the information on this sheet. An adult must take full responsibility for completing the online form.



"Curiosity is the essence of human existence. It's our destiny to explore."
(Gene Cernan, in 2013)

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WHAT TO DO

1 FIND OUT ABOUT GENE CERNAN

On the other page, you will find some information and ideas to get you thinking. What else would you like to know? What questions could you ask him?

Write your questions here

2 DRAW A PICTURE

What about Apollo 17, or Gene in his spacesuit, or a portrait of him?

3 SEND IN A QUESTION AND YOUR DRAWING

- * Choose your **favourite** question that you would like to ask Gene Cernan.
- * Ask an adult to complete the form online with your first name, city or region where you live, and your question for Gene Cernan. You need to do this by **3pm on Thursday 7th May**.
- * If you have drawn a picture, please send this in as well! You can take a photo of it and upload it with the form.

4 WATCH THE VIDEO NEXT WEEK

- * The video of Gene Cernan will be available to watch from 11.00 on Tuesday 12th May.
- * Ask an adult to find the video for you.
- * You might see your picture, or hear Gene answering your question!

CLICK HERE TO SEND IN YOUR QUESTION AND DRAWING

CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO (FROM 12TH MAY)