

SPACE DISCOVERY

WE CHOOSE TO GO TO THE MOON

DO IT RIGHT, DO IT FIRST

Places and
Forms of
Power

Myths
and
Heroes

The idea
of
Progress

Space
and
Exchange

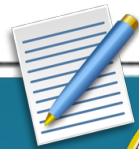
But why, some say, the moon? Why choose this as our goal? And they may well ask why climb the highest mountain? Why, 35 years ago, fly the Atlantic? Why does Rice play Texas?

We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one we intend to win, and the others, too.

We shall send to the moon, 240,000 miles away from the control station in Houston, a giant rocket more than 300 feet tall, the length of this football field, made of new metal alloys, some of which have not yet been invented, capable of standing heat and stresses several times more than have ever been experienced, fitted together with a precision better than the finest watch, carrying all the equipment needed for propulsion, guidance, control, communications, food and survival, on an untried mission, to an unknown celestial body, and then return it safely to earth, re-entering the atmosphere at speeds of over 25,000 miles per hour, causing heat about half that of the temperature of the sun--almost as hot as it is here today--and do all this, and do it right, and do it first before this decade is out--then we must be bold.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy, September 12th, 1962.

1. Introduce the document.
2. Who is speaking? Say what you know about him.
3. What is the topic of his speech?
4. Why does he keep asking questions at the beginning of the extract? Explain the stylistic device used here.
5. «not because they are easy, but because they are hard»
 - Can you explain why it is more important to do have difficult goals?
6. What can you say about the technical descriptions he gives about the equipment and the rocket?
7. «Untried mission» «Unknown celestial body»
 - How can you explain this need for something unknown?
 - What can you compare it to?
8. «Do it right and do it first»
 - Why is it important to «do it first»?
 - Who else could do it then? Explain the historical background.



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