

# Return to the Moon

Would you like to visit the moon? The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) hopes to land a manned spacecraft on the moon in 2018. That's 46 years after U.S. astronauts last walked on the moon in 1972.



NASA expects that the vehicle for the mission to the moon will cost \$104 billion to build over the next ten years.

The new spacecraft will look much different from the winged space shuttle that has carried many astronauts into space in the last 25 years. It will look more like an older spacecraft, called Apollo, but it will use some of the new space-shuttle technology. Besides going to the moon, the new vehicle will be designed to travel to the International Space Station and to Mars. It will carry four astronauts and more supplies than other spaceships.

## NEWS WORD BOX

Apollo      mission  
vehicle     technology  
Neil Armstrong

At first, astronauts would stay on the moon for about a week. Later, NASA would like to build a base on the moon where crews could work for six months at a time.

NASA used the Apollo rockets for six missions to the moon from 1969 to 1972. The first man to walk on the moon was Neil Armstrong on July 20, 1969. Armstrong and two other astronauts journeyed to the moon on *Apollo 11*. Altogether, 12 U.S. astronauts have walked on the moon.

## **MORE FACTS ABOUT THE SPACE PROGRAM**

- The new craft will be called a CEV, which is short for “crew exploration vehicle.”
- The spacecraft will be able to fly with or without a crew.

### **THINK ABOUT THE NEWS**

Some people say that money spent on manned spaceflights to the moon would be better spent solving problems on Earth. What do you think?

If you had the opportunity to travel to the moon, would you go? Why or why not?