

It's May 21st 1969, the day after space rocket Apollo 17 along with its crew, John and James left NASA on its journey. It had only one mission - to be the first people to walk on the moon.

I got talking to both John and James about their adventure and they had a lot to say. They were both ecstatic that they were able to carry out this mission together as they had been training for this moment for 2 long years! Might seem like a lifetime to some but was a blink of an eye for these two best friends. They were able to inform me that this mission would take approximately 1 year to complete and were understandably anxious about leaving family and friends for such a long time. They were only able to bring a handful of essentials such as; toothbrush and toothpaste, laptops, tinned food, water and necessary toiletries.

John and James had to undergo extensive training for this mission. They had to train in science, technology, engineering, math, medicine, language, robotic and piloting. All of this training is essential to ensure the successful completion of their mission. Astronaut training is one of the most difficult forms of training because it requires a high level of commitment, resilience and teamwork therefore, making it one of the toughest training programmes in the world. This didn't deter John and James though, if anything it made this pair even more determined to carry out their mission.

This mission has been a long time in the making. Scientists and other employees at NASA have carried out extensive research to make the impossible possible and I believe they have finally cracked it. As I stood waiting for Apollo 17 to take off the atmosphere was electric! Everyone watched John and James in their spacesuits, carrying their space helmets to the rocket as they gave one final wave, they climbed up the ladder into their new home for the next year. There were people everywhere waiting for what seemed like years in the making to finally happen. The rocket was set to leave at exactly 3pm on 20th May 1969 and it did. The 10 second countdown was announced over a speaker and everyone waited eagerly to watch Apollo 17 launch and when it did, it was out of this world. I had never seen anything so exciting.

The launch of Apollo 17 was successful, a moment that I'm sure will go down in history! Myself along with everybody else will be eagerly awaiting the return of John and James and I for one can't wait to hear how successful the boys were.

By Theo Walsh