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Grades 4-6

5 Questions For Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin

TFK: Should the United States have gone back to the moon in the past 30 years?

Buzz: We went six years without even flying an American in space, from 1975 to 1981. That is unforgivable.

TFK: Are you upset at the way NASA decided who would be first on the moon?

Buzz: What NASA did was absolutely correct. It would have been unacceptable for the (mission's) commander to (wait) while his copilot made the first historic step.

TFK: Why did you leave NASA after returning home from the moon?

Buzz: It would have been pretty hard to top the moon landing. I left to continue my career in the U.S. Air Force.

TFK: Have you thought of running for political office?

Buzz: Yes, but the idea wasn't very attractive. Probably 95% (of Americans) were supportive of the moon landing. Why risk such a (successful) career?

TFK: Do you believe in the existence of extraterrestrial life?

Buzz: Since there is no evidence, I don't know. But other solar systems and stars are common. So life is probably quite prevalent.

Next: Highlights of Space Exploration