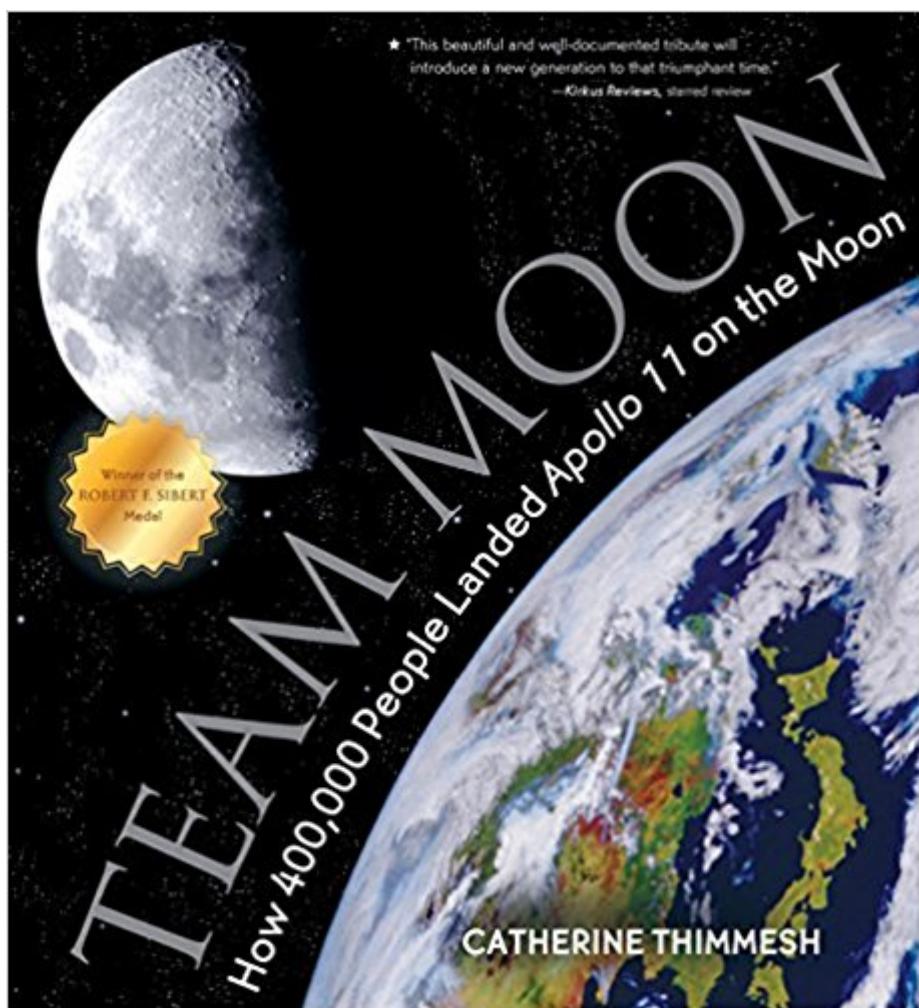


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# Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 On The Moon



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## Synopsis

Here is a rare perspective on a story we only thought we knew. For Apollo 11, the first moon landing, is a story that belongs to many, not just the few and famous. It belongs to the seamstress who put together twenty-two layers of fabric for each space suit. To the engineers who created a special heat shield to protect the capsule during its fiery reentry. It belongs to the flight directors, camera designers, software experts, suit testers, telescope crew, aerospace technicians, photo developers, engineers, and navigators. Gathering direct quotes from some of these folks who worked behind the scenes, Catherine Thimmesh reveals their very human worries and concerns. Culling NASA transcripts, national archives, and stunning NASA photos from Apollo 11, she captures not only the sheer magnitude of this feat but also the dedication, ingenuity, and perseverance of the greatest team ever—<sup>the team that worked to first put man on that great gray rock in the sky.</sup>

## Book Information

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Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Grade 5 UpIn infectiously hyperbolic prose that's liberally interspersed with quotes and accompanied by sheaves of period photos, Thimmesh retraces the course of the space mission that landed an actual man, on the actual Moon. It's an oft-told tale, but the author tells it from the point of view not of astronauts or general observers, but of some of the 17,000 behind-the-scenes workers

at Kennedy Space Center, the 7500 Grumman employees who built the lunar module, the 500 designers and seamstresses who actually constructed the space suits, and other low-profile contributors who made the historic flight possible. Despite occasional contrast issues when the white-on-black text is printed over blown-up photographs, this dramatic account will mesmerize even readers already familiar with the event— and also leave them awed by the level of care and dedication it took to surmount so many daunting technological challenges. Drawn from personal interviews and oral histories as well as a wide array of published sources, this stirring, authoritative tribute to the collective effort that left ... footprints, crisp and clear, pressed purposefully and magnificently into the lunar dust belongs in every collection.—John Peters, New York Public Library Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Winner of the Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award \* "This behind-the-scenes look at the first Apollo moon landing has the feel of a public television documentary in its breadth and detail." —Publishers Weekly, starred review \* "This beautiful and well-documented tribute will introduce a new generation to that triumphant time." —Kirkus Reviews, starred review "This dramatic account will mesmerize even readers already familiar with the event—and also leave them awed by the level of care and dedication it took to surmount so many daunting technological challenges." —School Library Journal "Thimmesh gives names and voices to the army that got Neil Armstrong and company to the moon and back. The result is a spectacular and highly original addition to the literature of space exploration." —Horn Book "Catherine Thimmesh tells us the stories of the 400,000 people it took to make...that 'one giant leap'...Their collective devotion to an exciting goal comes across strongly." —Chicago Tribune \* "Kids . . . probably feel they know quite a bit about the first manned moon landing. But until they've read Thimmesh's breathless behind-the-scenes account, they know zip." —Bulletin, starred review "An edge-of-your-seat adventure . . . lavishly illustrated . . . this exhilarating book . . . will captivate." —Chicago Sun-Times "Thimmesh's enthusiasm for her subject is palpable, and the sense of excitement she brings is as vital to Team Moon's success the book's very premise." —Chris Barton, author of *Shark vs. Train* An NCTE Orbis Pictus Honor Book AAAS/Subaru SB&F Prize for Excellence in Science Books An ALA Best Book for Young Adults An ALA Notable Children's Book —

I will use this book in my middle school curriculum when I teach about space. When I showed it to

students, they pretty much just looked at the pictures. After they watched "Apollo 13" it made a lot more sense to them. Then they wanted to understand more about the technology available at the time. This book makes a great companion piece to "The Right Stuff" and "The Dish" as well. If you are trying to get a historical perspective on that time period and didn't live through it as some of us did, please do yourself a favor and read it. The current textbooks cannot portray the taste of adventure we felt each time the astronauts voyaged out into dangerous places, as students back home gathered around black and white TV's brought into the classrooms to watch splashdowns. Knowing that the support structures have to be so huge may help people both understand why it costs so much to run a space program as well as perhaps pursue careers in the aerospace industry that are not just in the small astronaut corps.

This is an exquisite book. I have had the privilege of meeting a number of people who contributed to Apollo and, as far as I can tell, they all remember it as the most important thing they did during their working lives. They are tremendously proud of having been a part of it - as well they should! - and it is their participation that is at the heart of Catherine Thimmesh's wonderful book. "Team Moon" lets us meet a couple of dozen representative members of the team of 400,000 people who worked to make Apollo a success and sets their stories in the context of a brief - but very well written - account of the first landing mission. The book also includes a superb selection of photographs beautifully presented. Suitable for ages 10 and up - including 62 year olds - it's the first Apollo book I've read in a while that gave me a catch in the throat, a hint of a happy tear in the eye in admiration for the men and women of Apollo.

This book became an instant hit with our family for personal reasons: I and a nearby neighbor are just two of the thousands credited with getting the Apollo 11 mission to the moon. We found a single copy of Team Moon at a national chain bookstore, and as soon as we realized its story we purchased it as a birthday gift for a granddaughter. I wrote a letter outlining my part of the mission, and our neighbor signed the pages where his name appears. Apart from our personal interest, we found the book to be informative and interesting on several levels. We appreciated the author's approach with the use of Challenges to the mission's success. Subsequently, we ordered from an additional 5 copies to present to the families of our other grandchildren when the time is right. We can hardly wait!

excellent

Great story and beautiful concept for children. The text is captivating in its aesthetic view and there are many quotes from the Apollo mission.

Very pleased with the speed we received the book and with the condition of the book. Thank you!

My 12 year old son loved this book! It is neat to hear about the people behind the scenes.

Excellent book about teamwork! Great for young teenagers!

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