

Apollo 11



A cryptograph is a puzzle made up of letters. Each letter in the puzzle represents another letter of the alphabet. By knowing word patterns and which letters are used more often than others, the puzzle can be solved. See if you can decode the message below...

As Apollo 11 descended toward the surface of the moon, an alarm sounded and the spacecraft's computer indicated it was receiving too much information. Ground controllers in Houston and astronauts in the spacecraft held their breath waiting to see if the Lunar Module would safely touch down on the surface of the Moon...

(What did the astronauts say next, and how did Mission Control respond? Decode the cryptograph below to find out.)

**"CKYDWKA, WTXAUYSWSP HXDN CNTN. WCN
NXZGN CXD GXAJNJ!"**

**"TKZNT, WTXAUYSWSP. FN IKVP PKY KA WCN
ZTKYAJ. PKY'MN ZKW X HYAIC KB ZYPD XHKYW WK
WYTA HGYN. FN'TN HTNXWCSAZ XZXSA.**

WCXAED X GKW."



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Hints:

Each letter of the quote above represents another letter of the alphabet. Think about the letters that are used most in everyday words. Look for letters by themselves...what could they stand for? Use the list of letters below to help you.

CLUES:

$T=R$

$A=N$

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Cryptograph-Decoding Practice

Communications teams must be sure to be accurate when communicating messages for other teams. Decoding practice is a good way to emphasize that messages have to be accurate. Cryptographs are word puzzles. Each letter in the puzzle represents another letter of the alphabet. Once certain letters are determined, then words can be deciphered and finally the entire puzzle.



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Answer: "Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed!" "Roger, Tranquility. We copy you on the ground. You've got a bunch of guys about to turn blue. We're breathing again. Thanks a lot."