

Process Paper

For History Day I wanted to find a topic that I was very interested in. I love Lego and considered that as my topic, but as I thought through the research, I struggled with what barriers Lego broke through. They also aren't a U.S. company so I decided to find another topic. With 2019 being the 50th anniversary of the moon landing by Apollo 11 I knew that it would be a good topic, there would be many available resources and I love space, so it was perfect.

When I started my research, I initially used the school databases and resources that were provided to everyone. Both Gale and Britannica gave a great overview of the topic and helped me to find related topics, which were quite important in researching the background and the build-up to the Apollo 11 mission. I went to a History Day event at the Wilson library and found a number of images from the books there that were helpful. I got a lot of information about the build-up and my main topic from government resources since the space program is managed by the government. I put a lot of images and videos on the site from NASA websites about the various space programs. The more I researched, the more I realized that the race to the moon was more than just a simple contest about which country could get there first.

I felt a website would be the best fit for my topic and I wanted to get some experience building a website since everyone has one. The Apollo 11 program was part of the overall space program so there was a lot of information to show including images, videos and quotes. The background, build-up and topic information were best suited for presentation on the web.

Choosing how to display the information was an iterative process. I started by creating test pages with some of my information to see how it would look. Once I had an understanding of how to build the web pages I started creating the actual site. I would design the initial layout for a page and change it in stages until I liked how it looked. I wanted the site to display the information in an organized, easy-to-read way while also including multimedia resources to make it more interactive.

Apollo 11 tied into the theme of breaking barriers because it broke more than just one type of barrier. The obvious barrier is the physical one between Earth and the moon and the difficulty in achieving that, but that wasn't my only focus. I also looked at the technology and engineering barriers that had to be overcome because that is part of what made Apollo 11 such an important historical event.