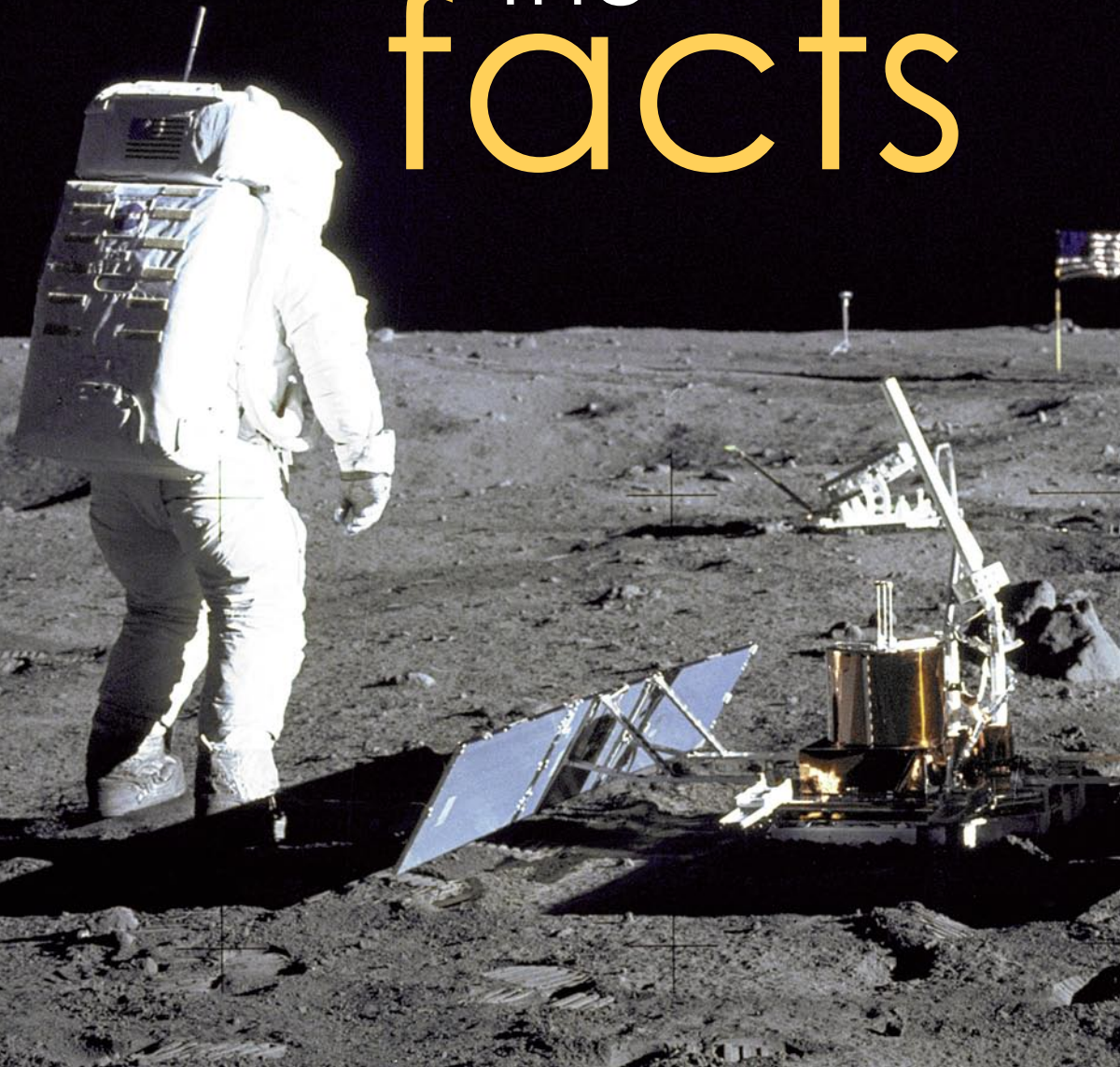


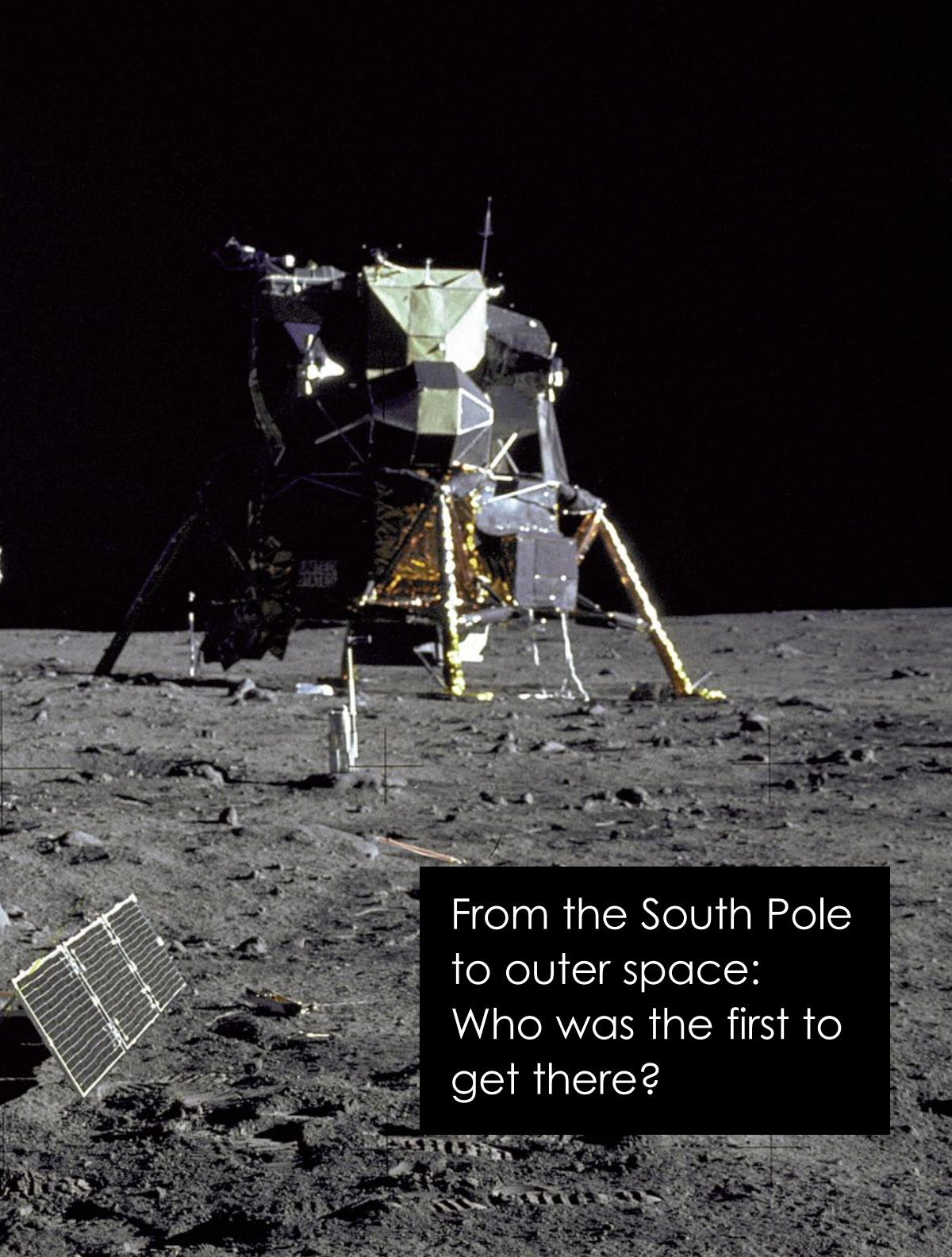


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# Get <sup>the</sup> facts





From the South Pole  
to outer space:  
Who was the first to  
get there?

# The first great journey

---

The first modern human beings lived in **Africa** about **200 thousand years ago**.


They lived in the part of Africa now known as Sudan, Kenya, and Tanzania.


People started migrating to new places. This may have been because

- the climate changed.
- there were too many people and they needed more space.



The most amazing journey in human history had begun!

 About **100 thousand years ago**, humans settled in **south** and **west Africa**.

 About **70 thousand years ago**, human beings reached the **Near East**.

 They reached **Asia** and **Australia** about **60 thousand years ago**.

 **Forty thousand years ago**, they reached **Europe**. Some scientists think they may have traveled by raft.



Less than **30 thousand years ago**, people crossed into **North America** from **Asia**.



From there they traveled to **South America**.



When people reached the **Pacific islands**, the journey was done!



# Discovering America

Many people think **Christopher Columbus** discovered America in **1492**.



**But:**

- People were already there.
- Other people from Europe had probably gotten there first.



Columbus saw many islands. He reached the **coast** of South America. He never reached the **mainland** of North America.

A copy of Columbus' ship *Santa Maria*



**Leif Ericson** was probably the **first person from Europe** to reach America.

He was born in **Iceland** around the year **980**.

He reached North America in about the year **1000**.

No one knows exactly where he landed, but it was probably in what is now Newfoundland. He called the country **Vinland** because of the wild grapes (**vines**) growing there.



## So who really discovered America?

The people who crossed from Asia thousands of years before and became **Native Americans** really discovered America.



Native Americans today

# Darwin and the Beagle

The **Beagle** was a ship that sailed on one of the greatest-ever scientific journeys. In 1831 it's captain, **Robert Fitzroy**, set out to explore the coast of South America.

He wanted someone to come with him who could be a friend and who could study wildlife.



**Robert Fitzroy**



**Charles Darwin**

Fitzroy chose **Charles Darwin**, a young man of 22.

In **1835** the *Beagle* reached the **Galapagos Islands**.





Darwin noticed that the birds and animals on each island were slightly different.

Each island had its own type of **finch**. They had changed over thousands of years to suit the food found on that island.



*Beak for eating seeds*



*Beak for eating insects and fruit*

When he got back to England, Darwin realized how important this was.

It showed how plants and animals develop. He called his ideas the **theory of evolution by natural selection**.

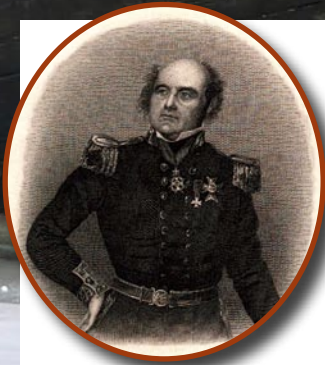
# The Northwest Passage

The journey to the Pacific **around South America** is very difficult.

For nearly five hundred years, sailors looked for a route north of **North America**.



They called this route the **Northwest Passage**. The problem is that for most of the year the sea is frozen.



In **1845** **Sir John Franklin** led an expedition to find the passage. The expedition never came back.

In the winter of 1846 the two ships were trapped in ice. **Franklin died** in **1847**.

In **1848** the survivors tried to escape across the ice by sledge, but no one survived.

The food they took with them  
have made them ill. The tins of  
meat were sealed up with lead.

**Lead poisoning** makes people  
weak and confused. In 1880, some  
bodies were found. They had high  
levels of lead in their bodies.



Roald  
Amundsen

The **first person** to sail through the  
Northwest Passage was **Roald  
Amundsen**. It took him three years,  
from 1903 to 1906.

A way for large ships to pass to  
the north of America wasn't found  
until 1957.

A much easier way to  
go from the Atlantic  
to the Pacific is the  
**Panama Canal**. This was  
opened in 1914.



Because of **climate change**, the  
ice is melting. By 2050 big ships  
may be able to use the Northwest  
passage year-round.

# The South Pole

---

The first people to reach the South Pole were **Roald Amundsen** and his team.



At that time, the only way to reach the South Pole was across the ice.

Amundsen set off in **October 1911**. There were five men, four sledges and fifty-two dogs!

They reached the South Pole on December 14.



Sixteen of the dogs were still alive. Many had been killed to feed the other dogs.

The trip to the Pole and back took **99 days** and covered **1,860 miles**.



**Captain Robert Scott** reached the South Pole a month after Amundsen. All his team (including Scott) died on the return journey.

No one else reached the South Pole until **1956**, when people flew there by **airplane**.

A **science base** is now at the South Pole. The base was named the Amundsen-Scott South Pole station by the U.S. Navy, who built it in 1956. People live and work there year-round.



# Apollo 11

---

On July 20, 1969, the moon lander **Eagle** broke away from the command module **Columbia** in orbit around the Moon and landed on the Moon's surface.

Six hours later, **Neil Armstrong** went outside. He was the **first man** to stand on the Moon.

The astronaut **Buzz Aldrin** came out of the lander and was the **second person** on the Moon.

Armstrong and Aldrin gathered rocks to bring back to Earth.

Twenty-one hours later, Eagle took off and met up with the command module, where **Michael Collins** was waiting for them.



This was the first of the Apollo missions that aimed for the Moon. There were six other missions.

## Apollo 12

Landed

November 19, 1969



Apollo 12 carried out experiments and landed next to the Surveyor 3 spacecraft that had been on the Moon for 2.5 years.

## Apollo 13

Launched

April 11, 1970



An on-board explosion meant Apollo 13 could not land on the Moon and had to come straight back to Earth.

## Apollo 14

Landed

February 5, 1971



Commander Alan Shepard played golf on the Moon!

## Apollo 15

Landed

July 30, 1971



The Lunar Rover was used for the first time.

## Apollo 16

Landed

April 21, 1972



The crew visited a mountain region of the Moon for the first time.

## Apollo 17

Landed

December 11, 1972



Eugene Cernan was the last man on the Moon – so far!





# The Big Sleep



# Chapter 1:

## The greatest journey ever

Pete Smith had thought about it for months.

He would be famous. He would be going on the greatest journey ever.

He had been training for years to be the first man to go to the stars.

Astronomers had found a star with planets. One of the planets was just like the Earth.

But it would take fifty years to get there.

Pete Smith was training to be an astronaut. He would be the first person to reach the stars . . .



But it would take him fifty years to get there!

“We haven’t found a way to travel near light speed,” the scientists had said.

“But we can put you to sleep. You will sleep for fifty years and wake up when you get there. You won’t get any older.”

But everyone else would. It would take more than one hundred years to get there and back.

Everyone he knew on Earth would be dead.

He would never see Sammie again.



You can't travel as fast as light. We will put you to sleep for the journey.

That means I'll never see Sammie again!

## **Chapter 2: “You’ll have to forget me”**

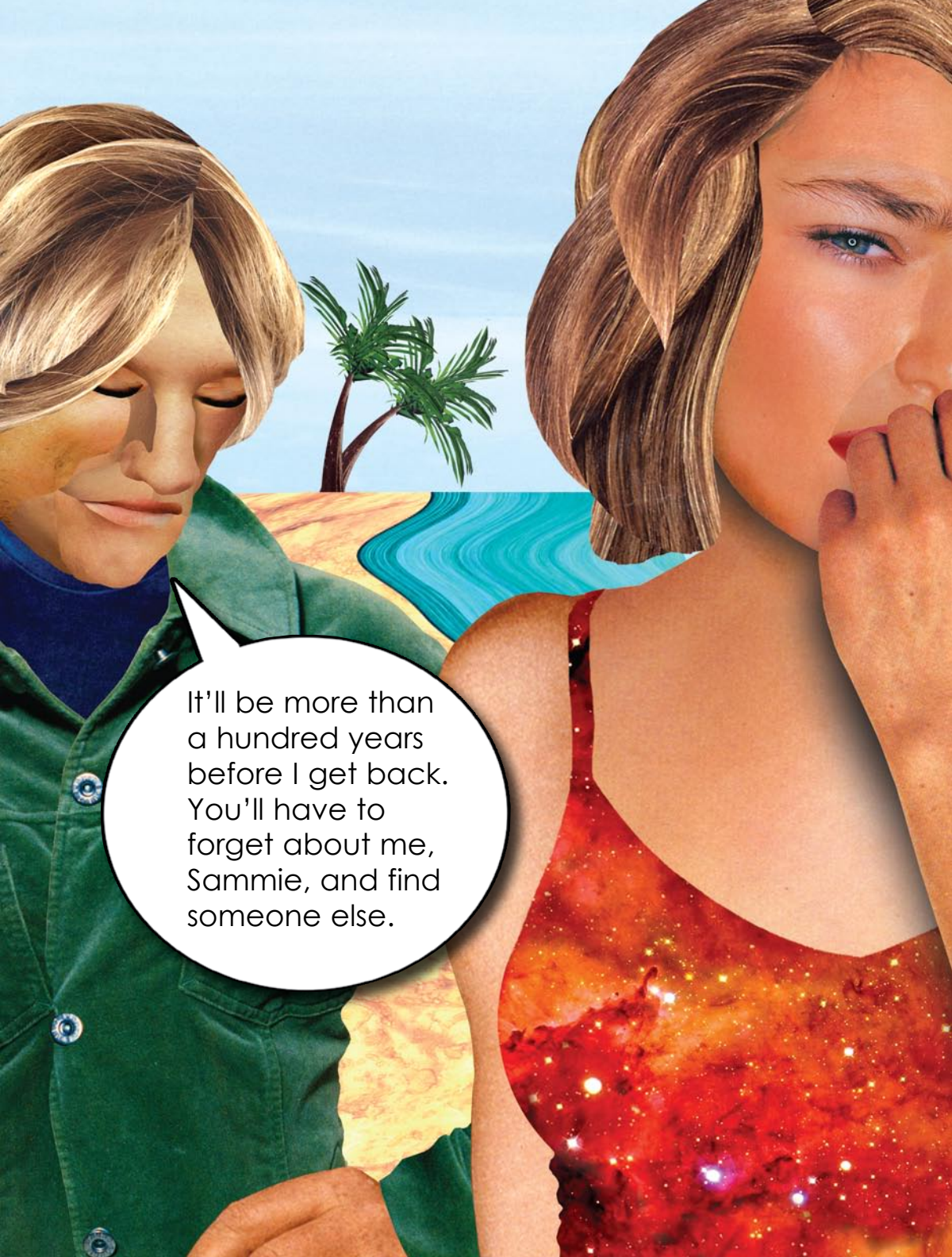
Sammie was Pete’s girlfriend. At first he hadn’t told her about the space mission.

But the mission would start soon.

He took Sammie to one of their favorite places.

He told her about the mission.

“It’ll be more than a hundred years before I get back. You’ll be long dead. You’ll have to forget me, Sammie, and find someone else.”



It'll be more than  
a hundred years  
before I get back.  
You'll have to  
forget about me,  
Sammie, and find  
someone else.

The day of the launch arrived. Pete climbed into his special sleep pod. A special gas was pumped in.

Before he fell asleep, Pete thought about Sammie.

She had tried to make him change his mind. But Pete knew he couldn't. Hundreds of people worked on the mission. He couldn't let them down.

The pod got colder and colder. Pete's body would be frozen—for fifty years!



It was the day of the launch. Sammie had tried to make Pete change his mind, but he couldn't let the scientists down . . .

A woman with blonde hair is shown in profile, wearing a space helmet. The helmet's visor is covered in a thick layer of white frost or snow. She is looking towards the left. The background is a dark purple space filled with stars. The helmet is part of a larger structure, possibly a spacecraft, with metallic panels visible at the bottom.

Goodbye  
Sammie . . .

## **Chapter 3: The launch**

The pod was loaded into the space ship.

All Pete's family were there to watch. But Sammie stayed at home. She couldn't bear the thought that she would never see Pete again.

The launch was perfect. Soon, Pete's frozen body was on its way to the stars!

Sammie couldn't bear to be at the launch.



The space ship traveled on through space. It left the solar system far behind. Pete was going faster than anyone had gone before, but he knew nothing about it.

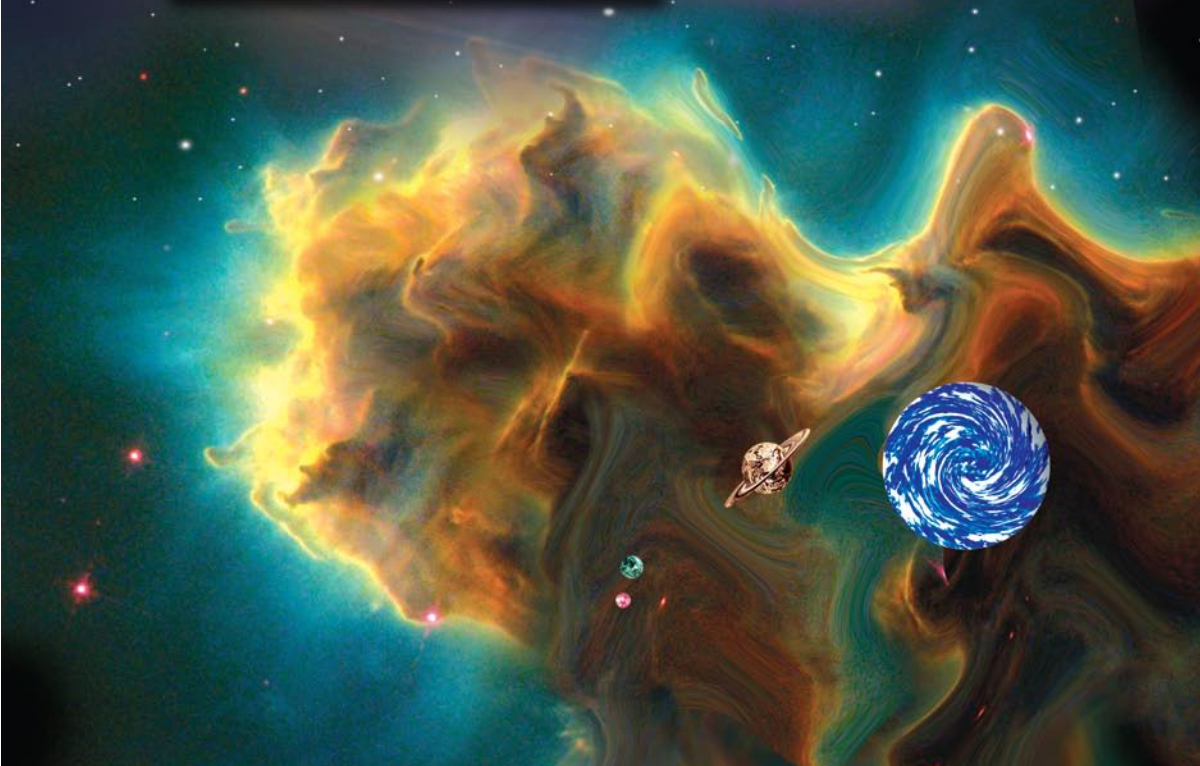
Ahead of him, a star grew slowly bigger. Near this star was the Earthlike planet the astronomers had found.

But what would Pete find there? Would there be life? And would it be friendly?

For years, the space ship traveled through space . . .



At last the space ship reached an Earthlike planet.  
But what would Pete find there?



## Chapter 4: Arrival


At last, Pete's space ship arrived at the planet. Machines on the space ship started to work. Special gas was pumped into the pod. Slowly, Pete's body was warmed up.

He opened his eyes and sat up. It seemed like only yesterday he had gone to sleep.

The ship headed down toward the planet. It was covered in green forest and looked just like Earth. But what would he find there?

The airlock door opened, and Pete stepped out. He heard a sound overhead.

A helicopter!



Slowly, Pete woke up after his fifty-year sleep . . .

It seems like yesterday when I went to sleep. But it was fifty years ago!

The helicopter landed and people got out. And the first person he saw was Sammie!


“It happened just after you left,” said Sammie. “They discovered a way to travel near light speed! People have been on this planet for years, waiting for you.”

“But what about you?” said Pete. “You should be more than seventy years old by now!”

Sammie laughed.

“I made them put me to sleep for fifty years too!”





Pete stepped out on the planet—  
and got a big surprise!

Sammie! What are  
you doing here?

They  
discovered  
how to go almost  
as fast as light just after  
you left! They put me  
to sleep too, so I could  
be here when you  
arrived!

# Great Journeys word check

climate

climate change

command module

expedition

experiments

mainland

migration

mission

moon lander

Native Americans

natural selection

Northwest Passage

scientific

scientist

settled

survivors

## Fact to Fiction

**Get the facts:** Find out about the greatest journeys ever! Modern humans' first great journey took more than fifty thousand years to complete. What was it? Who discovered America? Who was first to reach the South Pole? Who was first to land on the Moon?

**Fiction:** Then read *The Big Sleep*—a story about a man who takes a fifty-year journey to the stars. What does he find there when he arrives? You'll have to read the story!

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