

PRIMARY  
READERS

level

6

# *FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON*



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Retold by

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It was 1865, and the American Civil War was over. A group of talented inventors of guns and cannons met in the Gun Club in Baltimore, USA. The world was at peace, so there was no longer any need for weapons. The Club members had nothing to do. One of them, J.T. Maston, had an idea.

**Maston:** Didn't America once belong to England?

**Major Elphinstone:** It certainly did!

**Maston:** Well, now it's our turn to take England! We will have a war!

**Colonel Bilsby:** But the President of the United States will never agree to this!

**Maston:** Gentlemen, I'm afraid we're going to have to close down the Gun Club.





The Gun Club's president, Impey Barbicane, was the most famous designer of weapons in the USA. One night, as he was sitting looking up at the night sky, he had an idea.

**Barbicane:** Well.... Perhaps it is now time for a completely new project. I must call a meeting for the Gun Club immediately!



The next day, all members of the Gun Club received invitations to attend an important meeting on 5 October at 8 p.m. When the day came, Barbicane stood up to speak.

**Barbicane:** I know that we all want to continue using our skills of invention.... Until now we believed war was the only way to do this. But I've thought about it and I have an idea. I think you will like it.

**Club members:** Hurrah for your idea!

**Barbicane:** Well, here's the plan. I suggest building an enormous cannon. We will call it the Columbiad and use it to fire a capsule to the Moon. It will not be easy, but, with your help, it might be possible.

**Club members:** Hurrah for Impey Barbicane! Hurrah for the Columbiad! Hurrah for the Moon!



The cheering and applause lasted for ten minutes. Eventually, Barbicane was able to speak again.

**Barbicane:** Yes, my friends, we will put our flag there and the Moon will become the thirty-seventh state of America!

The Gun Club members lifted Barbicane up and carried him around the streets of Baltimore until late into the night.

The next day, all American newspapers wrote about the extraordinary plans of the Gun Club. Soon, the only things people talked about were the Moon and how to get there. Everyone was moon mad!

# Activity Page

**1** Label the pictures.



1. \_\_\_\_\_



2. \_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_



4. \_\_\_\_\_



5. \_\_\_\_\_



6. \_\_\_\_\_

**2** Complete the sentences using the words in the box.

close

peace

state

group

build

idea

1. A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ of talented gun and cannon makers met in the Gun Club in Baltimore.
2. They had nothing to do because the world was at \_\_\_\_\_ and no longer needed weapons.
3. They were afraid the Gun Club would have to \_\_\_\_\_ down.
4. The club president, Impey Barbicane, had a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ after looking at the sky.
5. They should use their skills to \_\_\_\_\_ a cannon to fire a capsule to the Moon.
6. They would make the Moon the 37<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ of the USA.



# Activity Page

**3** Answer these questions.

1. Who did J.T. Maston want to go to war with?

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2. Why could this never happen?

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3. What did Barbicane send to all the members of the Gun Club?

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4. What was the Columbiad?

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5. What did the Gun Club want to put on the Moon?

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6. What was everyone talking about after they learned of the Gun Club's plans?

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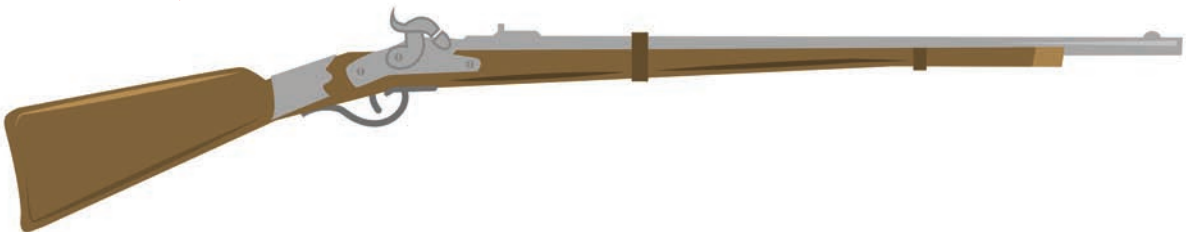
**4** What will happen next? Answer these questions and discuss.

1. What are some of the **problems** the Gun Club might face?

2. How long will the **journey** to the Moon be?

3. What will they **make** the capsule of?

4. How **will** they build a cannon that is large enough?





# Song

## From the Earth to the Moon

See now, the Moon is full  
Ride on, ride on  
Let's go there today  
I know that we can do it  
It's going to be a long way.

It's not going to be easy  
And it might make us dizzy  
But when we're on the Moon  
The Earth is going to look like a big blue  
balloon.

Let's ride this silver bullet  
Ride on, ride on  
All the way to the Moon  
Let's make this story happen  
They'll write a book about it soon.

It's not going to be easy  
And it might make us dizzy  
But when we're on the Moon  
The Earth is going to look like a big blue  
balloon.

