

Reading Passage 1:

The Green Revolution, which took place during the mid-20th century, represented a major transformation in agriculture worldwide. Before this revolution, farming techniques were largely traditional and not very productive. The Green Revolution introduced a variety of advanced techniques that led to significantly higher crop yields.

The key element of the Green Revolution was the development of high-yielding varieties (HYVs) of cereals, particularly wheat and rice. These new strains were capable of resisting diseases, pests, and other adverse conditions, therefore resulting in improved harvests. However, they required the use of artificial fertilizers and pesticides, which were also introduced as part of this agricultural shift.

The Green Revolution had an enormous impact, particularly in developing countries. It helped to alleviate hunger by improving food security. Millions of lives were potentially saved by this increase in food production.

However, the revolution was not without its critics. Some pointed out the negative environmental impact of the increased use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. There was also a concern that the emphasis on a few high-yielding varieties would lead to a loss of biodiversity, as traditional crop varieties became less common.

Despite these concerns, the Green Revolution stands as a milestone in the history of agriculture. Its successes and challenges offer valuable lessons for future agricultural innovations.

Reading Passage 2:

In 1969, humans landed on the moon for the first time, marking a monumental achievement for science and space exploration. This mission, named Apollo 11, was led by the United States' National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

The Apollo 11 mission was launched from Kennedy Space Center in Florida. It was crewed by three astronauts: Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins. Armstrong and Aldrin made history by being the first people to walk on the moon's surface, while Collins remained in lunar orbit.

The mission lasted about eight days, with Armstrong and Aldrin spending about two and a half hours outside the spacecraft. The astronauts collected samples from the lunar surface and conducted several scientific experiments.

The impact of Apollo 11 was massive, marking a significant leap forward in human understanding of the moon. This mission paved the way for further lunar exploration and played a critical role in the broader context of the Space Race during the Cold War era.

Despite the mission's success, human moon landing hasn't been a frequent occurrence since. The high cost, the immense logistical challenges, and the shift in focus towards unmanned exploration and the Mars mission have been significant reasons.