

# Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE  
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## SPACE JUNK

TRASH THAT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD

Have you noticed that all too often people leave litter behind when they go out and about? That causes problems for our planet and living things.

Since people started exploring space, we have been leaving litter behind. And that space litter is causing problems.



### IS THE SKY FALLING?

NASA says that only about one piece of space litter falls to earth each day. Nearly all of this burns up as it enters the atmosphere.

### HOW MUCH JUNK IS IN SPACE?

Space junk is a problem. Orbiting junk travels at tremendous speed, causing damage to working satellites and spacecraft like the International Space Station (ISS).

#### Orbiting Earth there are:

- 34,000 objects larger than 4 inches (10 cm) in diameter
- 900,000 objects ranging from .4 inches (1 cm) to 4 inches (10 cm) in size
- 128 million objects from .04 inches (1 mm) to .4 inches (1 cm)

#### Identified Flying Objects

Using a ruler, find objects around your classroom or home that are approximately the sizes listed above.

Draw a line to where each word belongs in this paragraph.

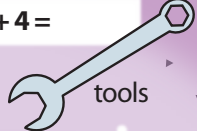
- SPEED
- TRAVELING
- MILES
- IMPACT
- BOLTS
- PIECES

### PAINT PROBLEM

There are millions of smaller debris such as nuts, bolts, and even flecks of paint. Many of them are around the planet at 7km per second. At that speed a fleck of paint could have the same impact as a motorcycle traveling at 60 miles per hour (95 km per hour)!\*

\*SOURCE: European Space Agency

9 + 4 =



tools

## STRANGE SPACE LITTER

Sometimes, astronauts drop things accidentally. And sometimes they leave things in space on purpose. Which of these things are really floating in space? Do the math to find out. Items that add up to an odd number are REAL. Those that add up to even numbers are science fiction!



LEGOs

17 + 6 =



camera

23 + 9 =



toaster

18 + 2 =



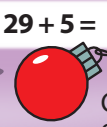
family portrait

24 + 3 =



astronaut glove

11 + 6 =



Christmas ornament

29 + 5 =

### Extra! Extra! Hundred Toss

Count different things in the newspaper! For example, count the numbers of:

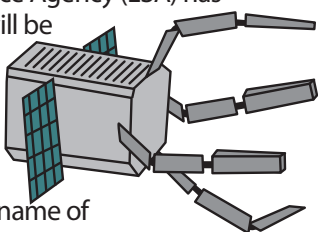
- women reporters
- men reporters
- numbers over 100
- dogs
- adjectives in the headlines on one page

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

### ROBOT TO THE RESCUE?

**Cleaning Up Space:** The European Space Agency (ESA) has developed a four-armed robot which will be launched into space to help clean up the trash in 2025. The robot will gather up debris before diving back down to Earth, where both the robot and the junk will burn up in the atmosphere. Circle every other letter to discover the name of this mission.



**D** C K L N E J A B R V S K  
 P T A L C R E Y O H N W E

C

## Double Double Word Search

ORBITING  
 STRANGE  
 PROBLEM  
 SCIENCE  
 LITTER  
 DEBRIS  
 OBJECT  
 SPACE  
 TRASH  
 ROBOT  
 CLEAN  
 BURNS  
 JUNK  
 REAL  
 SKY

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

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

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

## FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

### Living in the Future

Look through the newspaper to find a science-related article that might have been considered science-fiction 50 years ago. Then find an ad for a product that wasn't available 50 years ago.

Standards Link: History: Compare and contrast everyday life in different times.

### Why did the sun go to school?

ANSWER: To get brighter.

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