



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.

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.

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.

PAINT PROBLEM

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

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

SPEED **BOLTS** **TRAVELING** **PIECES** **MILES** **IMPACT**

*SOURCE: European Space Agency



Kid Scoop Together

Book Scoop

Use the Decoder Ring to discover the name of this fun graphic novel by Drew Brockington, which is available at the library. To fill in the blanks, find the letter on the outer ring, then replace it with the letter below it on the inner ring.



Facing disaster on a global scale, the CatStronauts rally to save the day. Without their chief science officer, and with a broken telescope and a lack of funding, the situation looks dire. Even Pilot Waffles is orbiting Earth in nothing but a space suit. Drew Brockington's third graphic novel in the series follows these daring adventures in space with imagination and much hilarity.

CatStronauts:

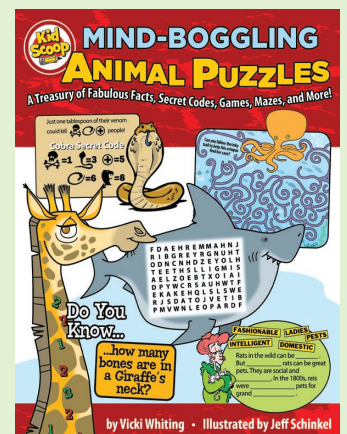
K L P O T

K D P D B H F

K B D M P D B H F

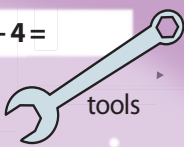
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STRANGE SPACE LITTER

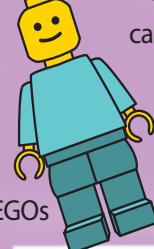
Sometimes, astronauts drop things accidentally. And sometimes they leave things in space on purpose. **Which of these things are really floating in space?** Do the math to find out. Items that add up to an odd number are REAL. Those that add up to even numbers are science fiction!

9 + 4 =  tools

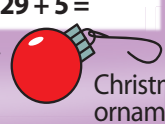
23 + 9 =  camera

24 + 3 =  family portrait

11 + 6 =  astronaut glove

17 + 6 =  LEGOs

18 + 2 =  toaster

29 + 5 =  Christmas ornament

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.

DCKLNEJABRVSK
PTALCREYOHNWE

C _____

Double Word Search

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.



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VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: DEBRIS

The noun **debris** means junk or pieces left behind from something broken or destroyed.

The abandoned space ship became **debris** orbiting Earth.



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.



Write On! Ticket to Space

Pretend you could win a ride into space on a rocket. Write a paragraph telling why you should win that prize.



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