

Space Junk

Read and listen and then do the exercise after the article.



science world

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4.18

In November 2008, a bag was lost in space by astronaut Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper, during repairs outside the *International Space Station*. The incident was reported by the media all over the world.

In fact, this happens quite a lot. A glove was lost during the US astronauts' first spacewalk in 1965 and a camera disappeared in space during the *Gemini 10* mission in 1966. These objects in space are called space junk.

There is a lot of junk in our solar system. It is found on Venus and Mars and twenty tons of it have been left by Americans on the Moon since the first Moon landing! Since 1957, when the first satellite, *Sputnik*, was launched by the Soviet Union, more than 4000 satellites have been sent into orbit. So it isn't surprising that some rubbish has been left behind!

Space junk travels as fast as 36,000 kilometres per hour and is very dangerous for spacecraft and satellites. Space Shuttle windows are often damaged and have been replaced over eighty times so far!

A lot of work is needed to clean up the space junk. Who knows, 'space junk collector' may be an important job in the future!

Click ONLY on the right statement.

- 1) It is thanks to the media that we know about the bag lost in space in 2008.
- 2) Space junk are objects left behind by astronauts.
- 3) The launching of Sputnik took place in 1957.
- 4) Space junk has been left behind by the Russians but not by the Americans.
- 5) Space junk does not move in space .
- 6) There is now a demand for space junk collectors.
- 7) In 1965 the USA launched a spaceshift with astronauts in it.
- 8) Cleaning up the space requires little work.