

Space Debris

There is a growing problem with space debris. It can be dangerous for people on Earth. Earlier this week, a large metal object fell into a village in Kenya, near the capital city, Nairobi. The object was about 2.5 metres wide and weighed around 500 kilograms. It could have caused serious damage, but luckily, it fell into a small forest, and no one was hurt. Kenya's Space Agency said the object probably came from a rocket that was launched into space. Experts will study the object and give more information later.

The problem of space debris will get bigger as more companies and countries launch rockets into the heavens. There has been a heating up of the space race in the past decade. Many satellites from the USA, China, India and other nations are now orbiting Earth and probing deep space. Commercial companies, such as Elon Musk's SpaceX and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin have sent dozens of rockets into low-Earth orbit. The European Space Agency estimated that there are currently more than 14,000 tons of debris circling our planet. This includes over 170 million pieces of space junk that are wider than one millimetre. Most of these harmlessly burn up upon re-entry into our atmosphere.



1) Space debris can be dangerous for people on Earth.
2) The metal object fell into a city in Kenya.
3) The object caused serious damage.
4) The space agency thinks the object came from a rocket.
5) More rockets and satellites are being sent into space.
6) The space race is becoming more competitive.
7) Commercial companies are now exploring deep space.
8) Most space debris burns up when it re-enters Earth's atmosphere.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Task 2. Listening: Humans on Mars



1) How much money would it now cost to send just one person to Mars?

2) How much might it soon cost to send just one person to Mars?

3) How many people does Elon Musk plan to send to Mars before 2030?

4) How many people does Elon Musk hope will live on Mars in 40-100 years?

5) How many spaceships does SpaceX plan to build for this goal?

6) According to Robert Zubrin, why can't NASA put humans on Mars now?

7) Which of these is NOT given as a reason for humans to become a multi-planetary species?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Task 3. Fill in the gaps

1) The Earth is part of the _____.

2) Astronauts work on a _____.

3) A _____ is very big and very bright.

4) Pluto is a _____.

5) A _____ is a very dark place in space.

6) We can see a _____ when the Moon is round.

7) A _____ is a very long distance in space.

8) A _____ happens when the Moon covers the Sun.

9) Many shooting stars are called a _____

10) A _____ has a bright tail.

LIVEWORKSHEETS