

## Article 11. "Littering" Problem in Space?

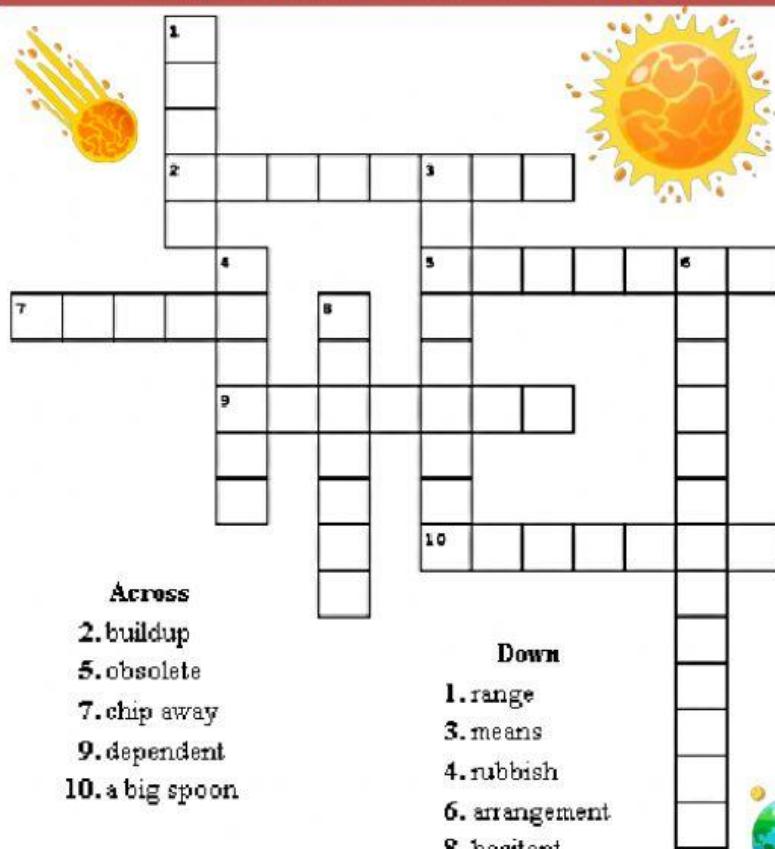
Space **debris** (also known as space junk) is a term for **defunct** human-made objects in space, which no longer serve a useful function. The junk includes the stages from rocket parts that launch satellites into orbit, and the satellites themselves once they die. But it also includes smaller bits and pieces lost to space including paint chips that **flake** away from the outsides of devices even a **spatula**.

Space junk has been **amassing** since the first human-made satellite, Sputnik 1, escaped Earth's gravitational pull on 1957 which marks the start of the Space Age as humans began to explore ever further away from our home world until now. But **that** also **indicates** we have left our mark on space in the form of trash. This issue had not been taken seriously before, until the incidents of satellite collisions happened in 2006 and 2009.

We have become increasingly **reliant** on the growing **constellation** of satellites up above. Not only are they invaluable for science but we use them for communication, navigation, weather forecasting, and more. So rather than **halting** future launches, researchers have been investigating an **array** of methods to both remove and reduce the space junk.

Listen to the audio and then complete the crossword using the bold words from the passage

Hint: the clues are **synonyms** to the bold words



DID YOU KNOW? >> 1 million earths can fit inside the sun!