

Name _____

Word Count: 178

Space Junk

Junk has been collecting in Earth's orbit since space exploration began in the 1950s. Some comes from old satellites and other pieces of equipment that are no longer in use. When old satellites run out of power or stop working, some fall back toward Earth and burn up in the atmosphere. Many others stay in orbit as useless garbage.

Space junk can also come from accidents. When two spacecraft crash into each other, both objects can explode, creating even more junk. The pieces can also smash into working spacecraft, which is especially dangerous. These spacecraft have to be steered around large pieces of space junk, since a high-speed crash with another object can destroy them.

Because space junk is a threat to new spacecraft, NASA tries to make sure that the amount of space junk in orbit around the Earth doesn't increase. For example, NASA tries to prevent explosions in space that would create new pieces

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of junk. In the future, space agencies may need to send 167
satellites or other remote-controlled machines into space 174
to remove the trash. 178

Number of Errors

1	2	3	4	5	6

Accuracy (%):

Reading Rate (Words Per Minute):

