

WHAT A MESS!



COLLISION COURSE

Scientists are sounding the alarm over the growing problem of space debris.

LEXILE: 1020L (870L alternate reading level)

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Science, Technology, and Society

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6–8.1, RI.6–8.3, RI.6–8.8, W.6–8.1

ENGAGE THE READER

Have students look at the headline and image at the top of the article. Ask: What do you see in the picture? What problem do you think this article describes? Why do you think the article is called “Collision Course”? Give students a few minutes to write down questions about the topic. Then, as they read the article, have them note details that answer their questions or raise new ones.

QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

- What is causing the problem of space debris? What is the space debris problem?
- According to the article, what are some possible solutions to the problem? Why do the *Science* researchers think these measures could work?
- What lessons does our treatment of the world’s oceans hold for our future in space? Explain. Do you think the problem of space debris could have been avoided? Why or why not?

PERSUASIVE WRITING

Remind students that the *Science* researchers are proposing an international treaty that would address the problem of orbital debris. Have them imagine that they’ve been given the job of delivering a paper at a U.N. assembly urging countries to adopt such a treaty. What evidence would they present? How would they present it? Break students into small groups to brainstorm ideas, with reference to their notes and class discussion. You might give them time to learn more about space debris from [NASA’s Orbital Debris Program site](#), where they can find photos and graphics.

Then challenge students to write the paper they would deliver at the U.N. The paper should include an introduction that summarizes the problem, a middle section that lays out the evidence and explains its significance, and a conclusion that makes an appeal to our responsibilities toward our natural environments.

COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY

The cover quiz can be found on page 3 of this guide.

To create a digital quiz, you can use our template [here](#).

1. D (RI.1) 2. A (RI.4) 3. B (RI.3) 4. A (RI.2) 5. C (RI.8)

6. B (RI.6) 7. Answers will vary. (W.2)



TRUMP'S LEGAL TROUBLES

On April 4, Donald Trump became the first United States president to be charged with criminal activity.

LEXILE: 1020L (860L alternate reading level)

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Power, Authority, and Governance

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6–8.1, RI.6–8.3, RI.6–8.4, RI.6–8.8

BEFORE READING

Tell students they'll read an explainer about former president Donald Trump's indictment. Inform them that an indictment is an official charge of a crime. Ask: What have you heard or read about Donald Trump's indictment? What crimes has he been charged with? Why is this event newsworthy? As students read the article, have them write down facts that are new to them, and any questions they have that require further reading.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What crimes has Donald Trump been charged with? Why might the actions he has been accused of be considered crimes?
- There are no laws prohibiting someone charged or convicted of a crime from running for president. Do you think there should be? Why or why not?



OH, BROTHER!

Kid Reporter Aiden An talks with two of the stars of the new *Super Mario Bros.* movie.

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Culture

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6–8.1, RI.6–8.4, RI.6–8.6, RI.6–8.9

BEFORE READING

Ask students: Why do news publications cover movies? Do you think entertainment is news? Why or why not? What kind of information about entertainment events should news publications provide?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What does this article tell us about the *Super Mario Bros.* movies? Why might readers want this information?
- Why do you think film studios encourage actors to promote their movies? Who else could talk about a movie?
- What's the most interesting quote in the article, and why? What question do you think the reporter asked?

CLOSING ACTIVITY

Have students watch the official trailer for *The Super Mario Bros. Movie*. Ask them to note details that tell them about the movie's main conflict and plot, its setting and characters. Bring the class together for a discussion. Ask: Are you excited to see this movie? Why or why not? Do you think the interview with Pratt and Day makes the preview more interesting? Explain. Do you think the trailer and article might interest viewers who are not familiar with the Mario Bros. games?

Name _____ Date _____

Use this week's cover story, "Collision Course," to answer the questions below. For questions 1–6, circle the letter next to the best answer. If you need more space to write your response to question 7, use the back of this page.

<p>1. Most of the trash in space is made up of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. functioning satellites. B. booster rockets. C. single-use plastics. D. pieces of spacecraft. 	<p>4. What is the main solution presented in this article?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Create an agreement between countries to limit space junk. B. Stop sending satellites to space. C. Provide astronauts with shelter to protect them from swarms of debris. D. Do not add paint to spacecraft.
<p>2. Which words in the text are used as synonyms?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. <i>rubbish</i> and <i>junk</i> B. <i>satellites</i> and <i>debris</i> C. <i>stray</i> and <i>swarm</i> D. <i>international</i> and <i>legally</i> 	<p>5. Why does the author include details about the oceans in this article?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Both space and the ocean are important environments for human survival. B. Space junk often ends up in Earth's oceans. C. We've created a problem in space similar to the one we've created in the oceans. D. Space pollution is raising the temperature of our oceans.
<p>3. Why is space junk a problem?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. It pollutes the air we breathe. B. It can damage spacecraft. C. It often falls to Earth and puts people at risk. D. Astronauts don't like the look of it. 	<p>6. How does Moriba Jah feel about the junk in space?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. It is shocking how quickly humans have destroyed space. B. It's a problem that can be fixed. C. The problem is already too big to fix. D. The RemoveDebris satellite is the best solution.

7. Write a treaty that could be presented to countries to help protect Earth's orbit. Include the problem and why it's important to solve.
