

LITTERED LUNARSCAPE

In *The Genius Files #5: License to Thrill*, extraterrestrials from another planet, Kayaanga, come to Earth and take Coke and Pepsi McDonald on a space-ship ride to retrieve the golf balls Alan Shepard left on the moon in 1971. The aliens who abducted Coke and Pep believe that *sweegling*, or littering in space, is a very serious offense.

3-2-1 BLAST OFF

Using your favorite internet search engine, learn about the space trash (also known as space junk and space debris) that is orbiting Earth. Complete the chart below and share your findings with the class.

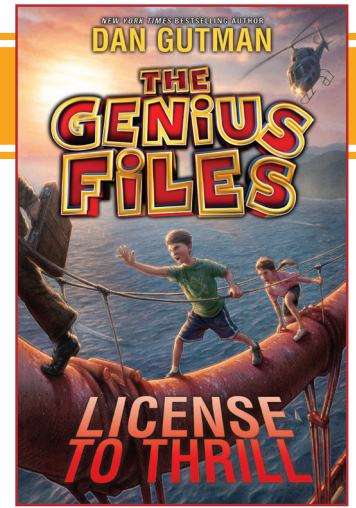
3 Reasons Why Space Trash Is a Problem:

2 Interesting Things About Space Trash:

1 Question I Still Have About Space Trash:

TAKE OUT THE TRASH

Now that you know about space trash, what do you think we should do about it? With a partner, brainstorm a few solutions to the problem of how we should clean up space debris. Let your imaginations free fall through space to come up with some creative solutions (i.e., laser beams to zap space junk). _____

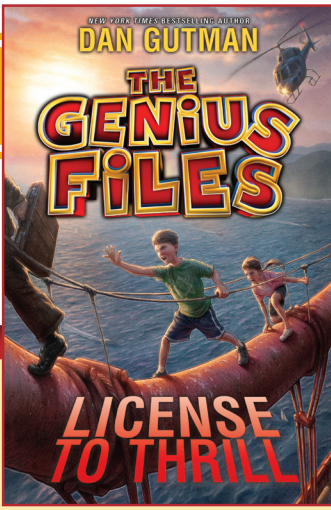


MOON WALKERS

Twelve men have walked on the moon as part of the Apollo program between 1969 and 1972. Astronaut Eugene Cernan was the last person to step off the moon. Before he left, he scratched his daughter's initials into the lunar surface. If given the opportunity to travel to the moon in the future and leave a message on its surface, what would you write?

Addresses the following ELA Common Core Reading and Writing Standards: RI 3.9 – 6.9; SL 3.4 – 6.4; W 3.7 – 6.7

Prepared by Mary VandeWater, Professor of Reading and Basic Education, Nassau Community College, Garden City, NY.



SEVEN WONDERS OF THE NATURAL WORLD

In *The Genius Files #5: License to Thrill*, Coke and Pepsi McDonald visit the Grand Canyon, one of the seven natural wonders of the world. Learn about this 277-mile-long canyon and the other six natural wonders by completing the activities below.

WHERE AM I?

Do you know where to find each of the seven natural wonders? The Grand Canyon should be easy after reading *License to Thrill*. Connect each natural wonder on the left with its corresponding location on the right. Check your answers on the internet or by using another reference source.

NATURAL WONDER

Mount Everest
The Grand Canyon
The Northern Lights
The Harbor of Rio de Janeiro
The Great Barrier Reef
Victoria Falls
Parícutin: The Volcano in a Cornfield

LOCATION

Arizona, USA
Mexico
Nepal
Australia
Brazil
Zambia/Zimbabwe
North America (magnetic pole)

AMAZING MOTHER NATURE

Select one of the seven natural wonders to research on the internet. List below three amazing facts about the incredible place you selected. Then create a collage of photos showing the site's beauty and splendor. Share your collage and research with your classmates and explain what inspired you to select this natural wonder.

Incredible Facts About _____ :

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

EIGHTH NATURAL WONDER OF THE WORLD

The seven natural wonders are truly extraordinary examples of the natural diversity of planet Earth. But are there other places of natural beauty that you've witnessed? Working with a partner, discuss places you've seen on vacation or read about that you believe could be designated the eighth natural wonder. Explain the beauty of this locale to your partner and try to paint a picture with descriptive words.

Addresses the following ELA Common Core Reading and Writing Standards: RI 3.7 - 6.7; W 3.2 - 6.2; W 3.7 - 6.7; SL 3.4 - 6.4

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