

## Chapter 3 · To the Moon!

With King Crackon determined to show the crew of Apollo 11 who is in charge, Mag and Dibble are forced to take drastic action. Can they help keep the Moon for the Earthlings?

### THE GREAT SPACE RACE

Jan Burchett and Sara Vogler

## CONTENT



### READ!

- **Reading comprehension questions:** 10 multiple choice questions to test text retrieval and reading comprehension. These questions may also be completed online at [www.fictionexpress.co.uk](http://www.fictionexpress.co.uk)
- **Guided reading:** teacher's notes and a written response worksheet comprising 6 questions which allow for deeper response to the story, looking at personal response, inference and prediction



### WRITE!

- **"Inspire!" words** to encourage children to include them in their own writing
- **Writing worksheet:** character speech bubbles
- **Grammar worksheet:** linking sentences – conjunctions



### TALK!

- **Voting options:** discussion points for each voting option
- **Role-play activity:** role-play conversation between characters



### EXPLORE!

- **Find out about the setting**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1

**What does Dibble want to do with the shaving foam?**

- A. Hide the spaceship
- B. Draw a picture
- C. Hide Crackon from the astronauts

2

**What does the astronaut think that Crackon is?**

- A. A spaceman
- B. Space bugs
- C. A mouse

3

**Why does Neil Armstrong sneeze?**

- A. He gets foam up his nose
- B. Crackon tickles him
- C. He has hayfever

4

**How is Crackon's spaceship better than the moon rocket?**

- A. It is much bigger
- B. It is much faster
- C. It is more comfortable

5

**Why does Mag want Crackon to sleep?**

- A. Because Crackon is very irritating
- B. Because Crackon is very grumpy
- C. So Crackon misses the moon landing



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

6

**Why won't Crackon want the Moon after the landing?**

- A. He wants a moon no one has trodden on
- B. He wants a moon no one has seen
- C. He wants a moon with a building on it

7

**What does Mag need to fix on the spaceship?**

- A. The bungles
- B. The springles
- C. The sprungles

8

**How does Mag make Crackon fall asleep?**

- A. She talks to him about fixing the spaceship
- B. She gives him a special warm drink
- C. She strokes his head and tells him a story

9

**How long does Crackon sleep for?**

- A. Four Zargian days
- B. Forty minutes
- C. Four Earth days

10

**How do Mag and Dibble find out that Crackon has woken up?**

- A. Crackon starts shouting at them
- B. Crackon hits them with his tail
- C. Crackon stops snoring



- 1** Recap on the events of Chapter 2. Ask a volunteer to explain where the Zargians are and why the astronauts haven't seen them. Read up to *Crackon was almost in view*. Ask: How does the author build up the humour here? (Crackon is slowly floating whilst Mag and Dibble panic.) What does the word 'gasp' tell us? (That Mag is very worried.) Ask: Why is she worried? Agree that it will be quite dangerous for the astronauts to see the Zargians.
- 2** Read up to "*...must have come undone.*" What was Dibble's plan? (to cover Crackon in shaving foam) Ask the children whether this is a good plan. Agree that an alien covered in foam might be very noticeable. Ask: How does the plan end up well in the end? Outline the events in order showing cause and effect: first the foam goes up Neil Armstrong's nose, this makes him sneeze and the sneeze shoots Crackon into his spaceship where he is safely hidden.
- 3** Read up to "*...anything complicated,*" said Mag happily. Find interesting verbs such as *bundled, mopped, snapped, thundered*. Ask: Why would it be ridiculous for Crackon to be in charge of the rocket? (He is tiny compared to the humans.) How do Mag and Dibble persuade Crackon that his spaceship is better than the rocket? (They explain how much faster it is.) Compare the speed of the spaceship, which travelled across space in 20 minutes to the rocket which will take four days to reach the Moon.
- 4** Ask: Why does Mag want Crackon to fall asleep? (She thinks if he can sleep until after the moon landing he won't want to have the Earth's moon any more.) Ask: How does Mag make Crackon fall asleep? (She talks about mending the spaceship.) Decide together whether or not Mag has made up *sprungles, quogdisks* and *brokshaft*. Ask: Which of the three aliens do you think is the cleverest? (Agree that Mag seems to be best at rescuing them from the disasters that Crackon creates.)
- 5** Remember together how Mag stopped the spaceship from crashing in Chapter 1. Read to the end of the story. Ask: How do Mag and Dibble feel about the Moon? (They think it is beautiful.) Ask: Why do you think Mag and Dibble try and stop Crackon stealing the Moon? (Perhaps they think that the Moon looks better where it is, they know that the Moon is important to humans.) Look at pictures of Apollo 11 and of the Moon seen from a space rocket.
- 6** Ask: How do Mag and Dibble know that Crackon has woken up? (He hits them with his spiky tail.) How does he behave? (He is angry; he gives a 'furious shriek'.) What happens to Mag and Dibble when Crackon shouts at them? (They turn orange with fear.) Discuss different ways humans show that they are frightened. Ask: Why does Crackon shoot his zapper inside the rocket? (He is holding it in his hand when he falls over.)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**1**

**Why is Mag worried when Crackon goes to see the astronaut?**

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**2**

**How does Crackon end up back in his spaceship?**

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**3**

**Why is it silly for Crackon to think that he is in charge of the humans' rocket?**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**4** \_\_\_\_\_

**Why does Mag want Crackon to fall asleep?**

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**5** \_\_\_\_\_

**How does Dibble feel when he sees the Moon?**

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**6** \_\_\_\_\_

**Why does Crackon shoot his zapper?**

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Here is some of the challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary used in Chapter 3 of *The Great Space Race*.

You may wish to explore this vocabulary, to improve children's understanding of the chapter, and inspire and enhance the quality of their own writing. You might like to display the words in the classroom, and encourage children to use new vocabulary as part of the Write! worksheet tasks.

chuckled

complicated

furious

muttered

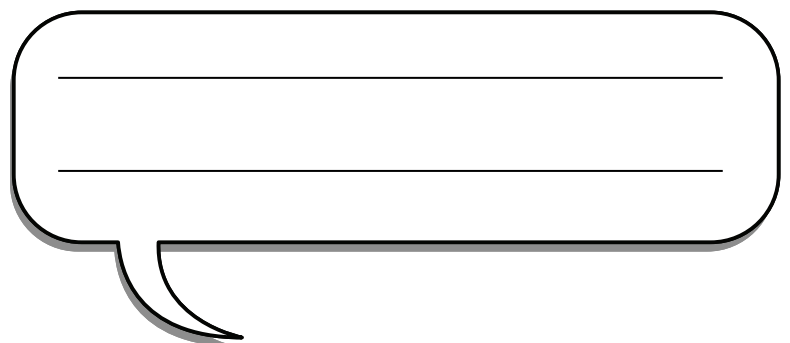
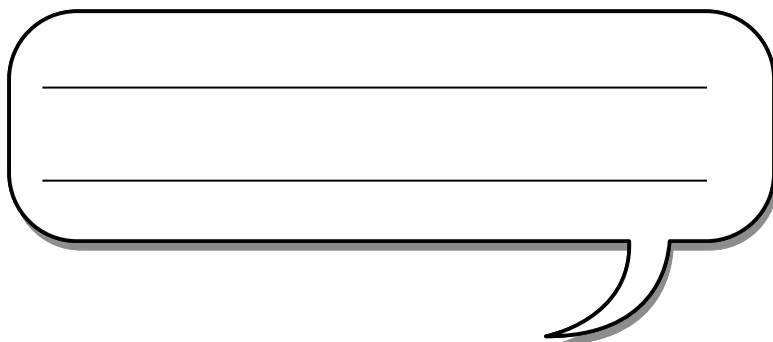
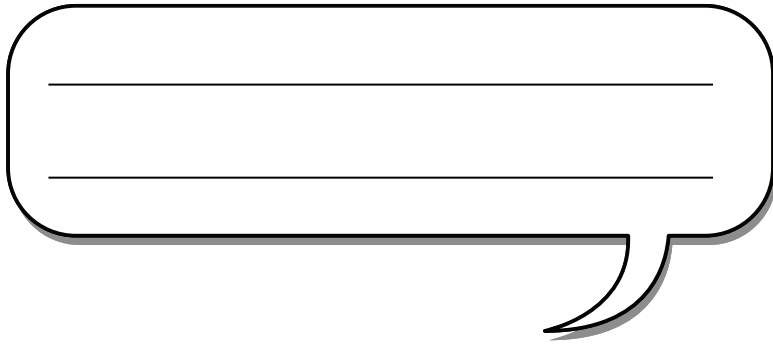
scrambled

spurted



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Write the conversation between King Crackon and Neil Armstrong if the astronauts discover the Zargians, using the speech bubbles below. Remember to try and use the kind of speech that your characters might.







Name: \_\_\_\_\_

We can use the words **or**, **and**, or **but** to link sentences together.  
These words are called coordinating conjunctions.  
Choose the correct conjunction to link the sentences below and write it in.

**and**

**or**

**but**

1. King Crackon always thinks he is in charge \_\_\_\_\_ he is not really.
2. Mag and Dibble knew they had to stop Crackon \_\_\_\_\_ he would steal the Earthlings' moon.
3. Mag started to talk about the engine \_\_\_\_\_ Crackon fell asleep.

We can use the words **when**, **if**, **that** or **because** to make longer sentences.  
These words are called subordinating conjunctions.  
Choose the correct conjunction to link the sentences below and write it in.

**when**

**if**

**that**

**because**

4. Neil did not notice King Crackon \_\_\_\_\_ Dibble had covered him in shaving foam.
5. The tube \_\_\_\_\_ Dibble pushed sputtered foam everywhere.
6. Neil gave a big sneeze \_\_\_\_\_ the foam went up his nose.
7. Mag and Dibble will be in trouble \_\_\_\_\_ the astronauts make it to the Moon first.



### What happens when the lunar zapper is fired?

**A**

#### It shrinks Neil Armstrong

Neil Armstrong is the astronaut that Crackon lands on in this chapter – and he’s also famously the first person to set foot on the Moon. Can you imagine what the other astronauts would do if Neil suddenly shrank? Perhaps he could help fix the Zargian spaceship! How small might he become?

**B**

#### It shrinks one of Crackon’s boots

If King Crackon suddenly has an incredibly small boot, do you think he will keep quiet about it, or will he make a big fuss so that the astronauts hear him and discover the Zargians? What do you think the astronauts would do if they did discover these tiny aliens?

**C**

#### It’s on the ‘grow’ setting and hits Mag

If Mag suddenly grew, the astronauts would be sure to see her. What do you think they would do? And we don’t know how big she might grow. What would happen if she started to fill the space rocket?

→ Which option do you think would be the most exciting one for the next chapter of *The Great Space Race*?

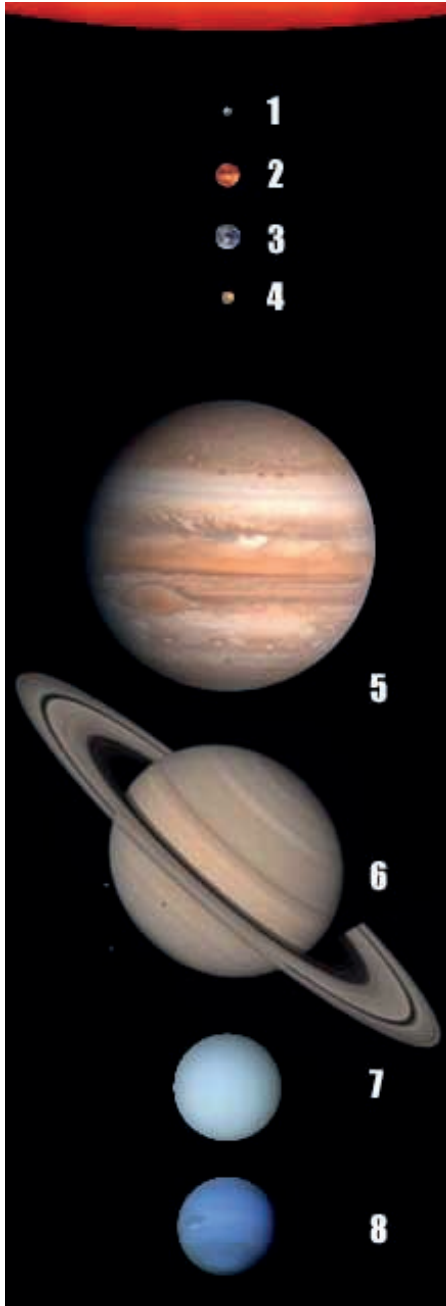
### Discussion Activity

In pairs, imagine and role-play a conversation between two of the characters, with each of you taking the role of one character. This could be between Neil and Crackon if Crackon had not been hidden by the shaving foam. Or perhaps it could be between Mag and the astronauts if she did grow after being hit with the zapper. Try to use the language that your characters would use.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Can you label all the planets in our solar system? The challenge yourself to find out a fact about your favourite planet.



Our solar system

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

A fact about my favourite planet:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## ANSWERS

### READ! Comprehension Questions

1. What does Dibble want to do with the shaving foam?  
C. Hide Crackon from the astronauts
2. What does the astronaut think that Crackon is?  
B. Space bugs
3. Why does Neil Armstrong sneeze?  
A. He gets foam up his nose
4. How is Crackon's spaceship better than the moon rocket?  
B. It is much faster
5. Why does Mag want Crackon to sleep?  
C. So Crackon misses the moon landing
6. Why won't Crackon want the Moon after the landing?  
A. He wants a moon no one has trodden on
7. What does Mag need to fix on the spaceship?  
C. The sprungles
8. How does Mag make Crackon fall asleep?  
A. She talks to him about fixing the spaceship
9. How long does Crackon sleep for?  
C. Four Earth days
10. How do Mag and Dibble find out that Crackon has woken up?  
B. Crackon hits them with his tail

### READ! Written Response Worksheet

1. They think it will be dangerous if the astronauts see them; they think that Crackon is embarrassing.
2. Dibble sprays Crackon with shaving foam; Neil Armstrong sneezes; the sneeze shoots Crackon back into his ship.
3. Crackon is much smaller than the humans and the humans don't even know the Zargians exist.
4. So that the humans are able to stand on the Moon; once this happens, Crackon will no longer want the Moon.
5. He thinks it is wonderful.
6. He falls over whilst holding it.

### WRITE! Worksheet: Linking sentences – conjunctions

1. King Crackon always thinks he is in charge **but** he is not really.
2. Mag and Dibble knew they had to stop Crackon **or** he would steal the Earthlings' moon.
3. Mag started to talk about the engine **and** Crackon fell asleep.
4. Neil did not notice King Crackon **because** Dibble had covered him in shaving foam.
5. The tube **that** Dibble pushed spurted foam everywhere.
6. Neil gave a big sneeze **when** the foam went up his nose.
7. Mag and Dibble will be in trouble **if** the astronauts make it to the Moon first.

### EXPLORE! Find out about the setting

1. Mercury
2. Venus
3. Earth
4. Mars
5. Jupiter
6. Saturn
7. Uranus
8. Neptune

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