

Chapter 5 · Save the Moon!

The Zargians' spaceship is in freefall, and Crackon still plans to shrink the Moon! Meanwhile, Neil and Buzz are heading for the lunar surface. Who will win the great space race?

THE GREAT SPACE RACE

Jan Burchett and Sara Vogler

CONTENT



→ **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

READ!

→ **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:** plan a new story

→ **Grammar worksheet:** apostrophes of omission and contraction



TALK!

→ **Talk activity:** retelling the story



EXPLORE!

→ **Art activity:** drawing a diagram



Name: _____

1

What does the grappler get attached to?

- A. Dibble
- B. The Moon
- C. The lunar lander

2

Why does Mag use the grappler?

- A. To stop the lunar lander
- B. To speed up the spaceship
- C. To stop them crashing on to the Moon

3

Why does Dibble fall out of the spaceship?

- A. He leans out too far
- B. Crackon pushes him
- C. He is pulled out by the grappler

4

How does Mag stop Crackon firing at the Moon?

- A. She throws herself at him
- B. She stands in the way
- C. She grabs his zapper

5

Which Earthling is the first to stand on the Moon?

- A. Neil
- B. Crackon
- C. Buzz



Name: _____

6

Why does Crackon want to shrink Neil?

- A. To stop him getting to the Moon
- B. So he will fit in Crackon's museum
- C. So he's the right size to boss around

7

What knocks Crackon out of Neil's hand?

- A. Dibble
- B. The grappler
- C. Buzz's boot

8

Why won't Crackon be able to shrink the Earth?

- A. His zapper needs charging
- B. He has forgotten his zapper
- C. Neil has taken the zapper

9

Why does Neil wink at Mag?

- A. To tell Mag and Dibble that they are safe
- B. He has something in his eye
- C. Because he has caught them

10

Why do Mag and Dibble decide to go to the Earth with Neil the astronaut?

- A. To rescue Crackon
- B. To shrink it
- C. He is nicer than Crackon



- 1 Recap on the situation at the end of Chapter 4. Read up to *...yelled Mag*. Ask: Why can't Mag and Dibble slow down their spaceship? (Crackon has removed the brakes thinking that he was removing the brakes from the humans' spaceship.) Discuss the meaning of 'plummeted'. (drops quickly like a stone) Find the words 'plummeted', 'spun', 'wailed' and 'yelled'. How do the aliens feel? (scared, frantic, cross, panicked)
- 2 Read up to *...up to the leg of the lander*. Ask a volunteer to explain what happens here. (Dibble has attached one end of the grappler to the door handle and thrown the other towards the lander as it heads towards the Moon.) What does the word 'gulped' tell us about how Mag feels? (worried) What does the word 'snaked' tell us about the way the rope of the grappler moves? (like a snake) What happens next? (The grappler grabs hold of the lunar lander and pulls the aliens' spaceship on to the leg of the lander.)
- 3 Read up to *"...My moon!"* Find evidence of Crackon behaving rudely, for example: *"Out of my way", "He's a fool", "bungling slopweed", snarled*. Ask: What would you do if you worked for Crackon? Ask: What goes ZING? (the zapper) Ask: Why does Crackon push Dibble? (to get to the door to shoot the Moon) How do you think Mag feels when Dibble vanishes into space? What is the 'bump'? (the lander landing) Why does the word 'No' have so many 'o's? Model reading the word.
- 4 Read up to *"I clung to the lander."* Watch archive footage of Neil Armstrong taking his first steps on the Moon. Ask: What is Neil saying here? What is the 'small step'? (Neil stepping off the lander) What is the 'giant leap'? (the scientific and historic moment of putting a person on the Moon) Work out how long ago the 20th July 1969 was. Why does Neil laugh at Crackon? (He thinks Crackon is ridiculous and not dangerous.)
- 5 Ask: Who is Dibble saving when he pushes Crackon off Neil's hand? (Neil) Why is Mag so pleased to see Dibble? (She thought he had disappeared into space.) Read to the end. Enjoy together the description of Crackon's tantrum. Point out the alliteration of the words 'sparks' and 'spikes'. Find the description of Crackon flying away. Find the words 'twisted' and 'rolled'. Ask: Do you think he will arrive on the Earth safely? (Remind the children that he has no brakes.)
- 6 Speculate on what will happen to him on Earth. Who will he shout at? Ask: How do you think Mag and Dibble might feel? (possibly relieved) Ask: Why does Neil wink at Mag and Dibble? (to let them know that he has seen them and will keep them safe) Speculate together on how Mag and Dibble will find life on Earth. (They will probably get on well with Neil.) Ask: Would you like them to meet Crackon? Talk about what the children have enjoyed most about the story.



Name: _____

1 What do the words 'yelled' and 'cried' tell you about how the aliens feel at the start of this chapter?

2 Where does the aliens' spaceship land after they use the grappler?

3 Find and copy something rude that Crackon says.



Name: _____

4 _____

Why does the lander go 'bump'?

5 _____

What happens to Crackon when he has a tantrum?

6 _____

What was your favourite part of the story?



Here is some of the challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary used in Chapter 5 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.

flung

jolt

plummeted

snaked

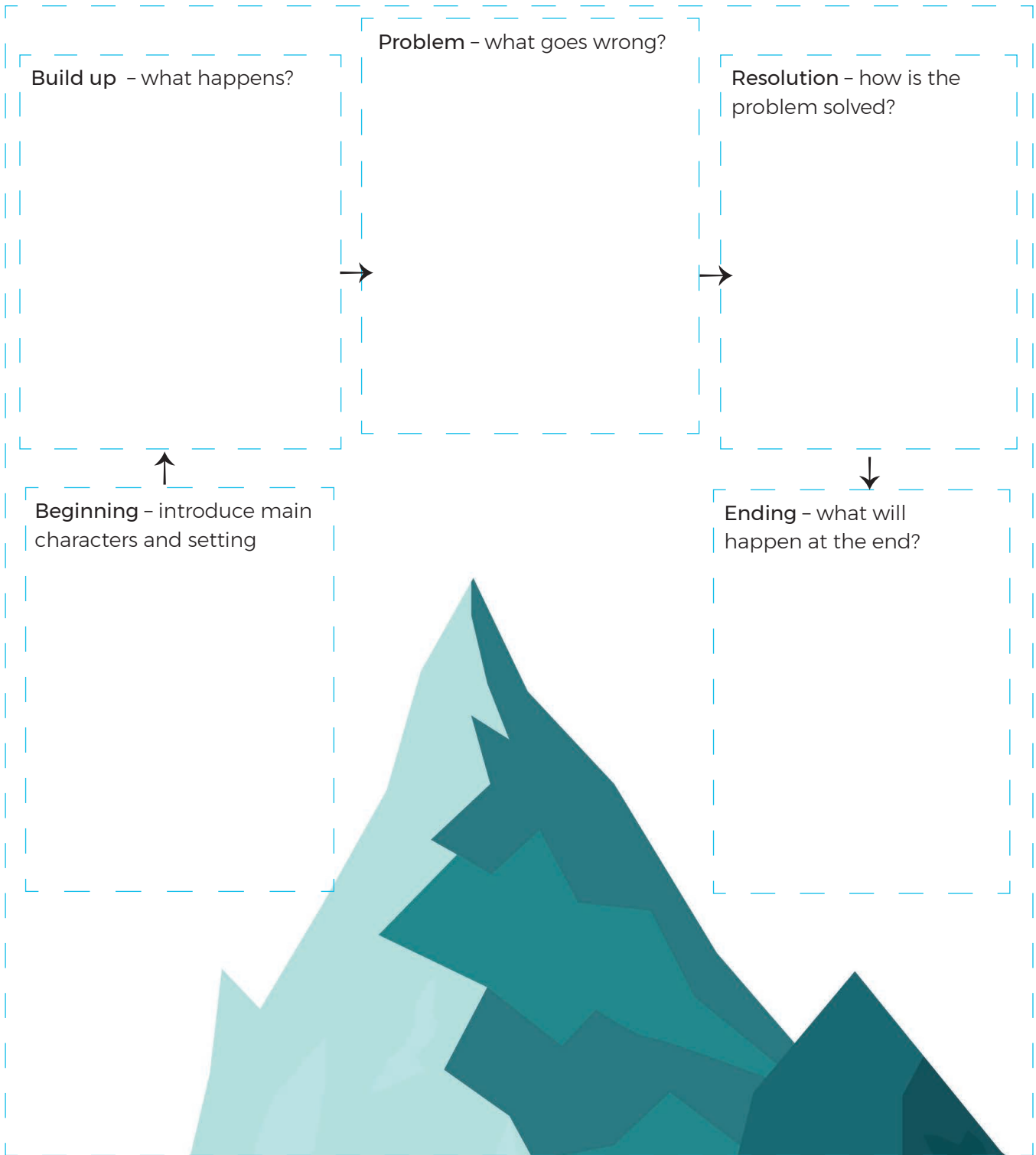
tantrum

wiggling



Name: _____

This story looks at a real event and tells a fun, fictional adventure around the event. Fill in the boxes of this story mountain to plan a new story with a historical event you know about.





Name: _____

Apostrophes show that letters are missing in contracted words.
We also use apostrophes to show that something belongs to someone.
Rewrite and add the missing apostrophes to these sentences, to show either missing letters or that something belongs to someone.

1

“Youre ruining my aim!” snapped Crackon.

2

The grappler caught hold of the landers leg.

3

“Im not wasting time on him!” said Crackon.

4

Mags smile was huge when she saw Dibble again.

5

“Lets go and live on the Earth with them!”

6

“He cant,” said Mag. “Hes forgotten his zapper.”



Storytelling

- ▶ Can you remember the story of what happened in the book *The Great Space Race*? Use these questions to help you.

Who are the main characters?

Where is the story set?

What happened at the beginning of the story?

What problems did the characters have?

How did the characters solve the problems?

What happened at the end?

- ▶ Now try to tell the story to someone who has not heard it before.



Name: _____

Imagine you are making an animated cartoon film of the end action scene of this story, and you need to plan where everybody is. Draw a diagram below showing where the Earth, the Moon, the space shuttle, the lander and the Zargians' spaceship are. Add labels to make it clear!

A large rectangular area defined by a dashed blue border, intended for drawing a diagram of the space scene.

ANSWERS

READ! Comprehension Questions

1. What does the grappler get attached to?
C. The lunar lander
2. Why does Mag use the grappler?
C. To stop them crashing on to the Moon
3. Why does Dibble fall out of the spaceship?
B. Crackon pushes him
4. How does Mag stop Crackon firing at the Moon?
A. She throws herself at him
5. Which Earthling is the first to stand on the Moon?
A. Neil
6. Why does Crackon want to shrink Neil?
B. So he will fit in Crackon's museum
7. What knocks Crackon out of Neil's hand?
A. Dibble
8. Why won't Crackon be able to shrink the Earth?
B. He has forgotten his zapper
9. Why does Neil wink at Mag?
A. To tell Mag and Dibble that they are safe
10. Why do Mag and Dibble decide to go to the Earth with Neil the astronaut?
C. He is nicer than Crackon

READ! Written Response Worksheet

1. They are scared.
2. On the leg of the lander.
3. For example: 'Out of my way' 'He's a fool', 'bungling slopweed'.
4. It lands on the Moon.
5. His ears give out sparks of fire and spikes fly out of his tail.
6. (Children's own answer.)

WRITE! Worksheet: Apostrophes of omission and possession

1. "You're ruining my aim!" snapped Crackon.
2. The grappler caught hold of the lander's leg.
3. "I'm not wasting time on him!" said Crackon.
4. Mag's smile was huge when she saw Dibble again.
5. "Let's go and live on the Earth with them!"
6. "He can't," said Mag. "He's forgotten his zapper."

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