

Level
E

**Welcome
to**

**Content
Area
READING**

- Science • Social Studies
- Language Arts • Mathematics

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For teachers' inspection ONLY

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A Fall From Space

Russian Space Station Crashes in Pacific Ocean

By Martha Pickerill

(MOSCOW, Russia, March 23) *Mir* went far. *Mir* was a Russian space station. It had been circling the Earth for 15 years. But it had become old and worn out. Astronauts were no longer safe on board the space station. So scientists decided to let it fall from orbit. But they did not let it crash just anywhere. Experts in Russia controlled *Mir*'s fall. On March 22 pieces of the giant spacecraft splashed into the Pacific Ocean. No one was harmed.

Living on *Mir*

Mir was once a big part of the Russian space program. Astronauts from the U.S. and many other countries worked on board *Mir*. The Russian crew lived on *Mir* for a long time. They set records for staying in space 437 straight days. Living on *Mir* taught scientists how to live on the International Space Station.



This photo shows *Mir* falling to Earth. It splashed down in the Pacific Ocean.

Near Disaster

Mir weighed 135 tons. It was the largest human-made object ever brought down from space. Experts said most of the station would burn up when it hit the Earth's atmosphere. But people in Japan were still nervous. Japan was the last country *Mir* would fly over before crashing. But people in Japan had nothing to worry about. This crash was a big success.

Comprehension Connection



Before Reading

1. Read the title and the sentence under it. What is this article about?
2. What do you know about space stations?
3. Read the headings. Ask questions about them.

During Reading

1. Why did Russia let *Mir* fall?
2. What made the Japanese fearful about *Mir*?
3. Why did Russia plan the “landing” of *Mir* in the ocean?

After Reading

1. How do you think the Russian space scientists felt about *Mir* crashing?
2. Why does it say the “crash was a big success”? Why is this sentence the last one in the article?
3. What do you imagine it was like living on a space station for 437 days?

Skill Focus

Finding the Big Idea

What ideas are most important in what you read? You can figure this out. You can ask yourself these questions:

- What is the big idea here?
- What facts help me believe that the big idea is true?

Look at the second paragraph of “A Fall from Space.” What is it about? It is about how *Mir* was important to space study. What facts show this idea? Many astronauts from around the world worked there. Russian astronauts lived there a long time. Scientists learned about how to live in space.

Now you try. Ask the questions for the third paragraph.

Writer's World

1. Pretend you are a reporter in Japan. Write a news story about the crash of *Mir* into the Pacific Ocean.
2. Look at the photo. Describe what *Mir* looks like. Write about what you think it would be like to live in it.
3. Learn some cool space facts. Make a poster to share your facts. Add some pictures to your poster.



Help for the Helpers

By Martha Pickerill

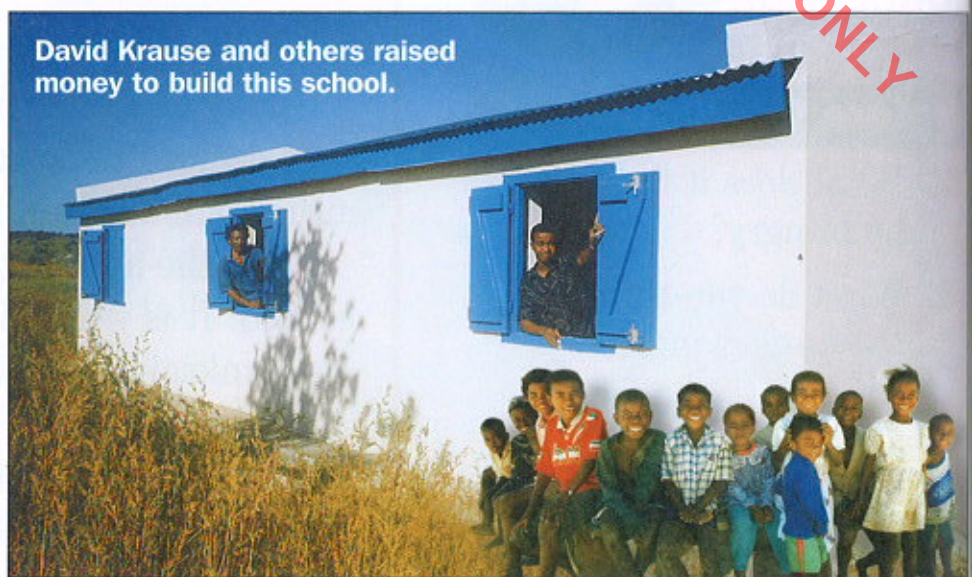
David Krause is a scientist. He searches for dinosaur fossils. In 1996, Krause was digging for dinosaur bones in Madagascar [ˌmædəˈgæskə]. Madagascar is an island near the east coast of Africa. While Krause dug, kids from the area helped him. They told Krause where to hunt for fossils.

Krause was happy for their help. But he wondered why the children weren't in school. Krause found that the kids had no school. Their village was too poor to build one. Krause wanted to pay back the village people for their kindness. So he and other Americans hired a teacher for the village.

Back in the Village

In 1998, Krause came back to the village. He found that 60 kids, ages 5 to 17, were in school. Krause wanted to do even more for the village. He started the Madagascar Ankizy Fund to raise money. (*Ankizy* means children in the local language.) The

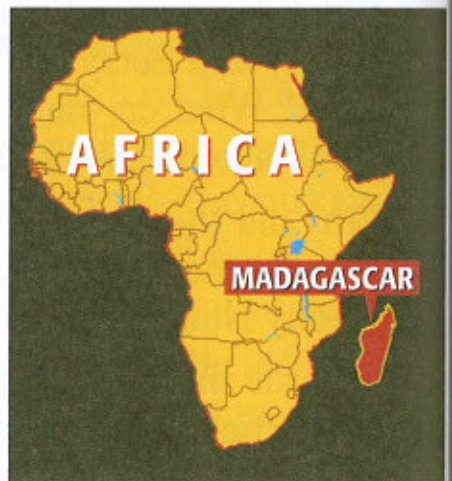
David Krause and others raised money to build this school.



fund did a good job. In 1999, it paid for a new schoolhouse. It also paid for another teacher. Soon, the village will have a new well. It will give people clean water.

More Work to Do

Krause visits schools in the U.S. He talks about his work in Madagascar and the village. After hearing him, many students are raising money. Krause says this money will help “the lives of kids on the other side of the planet.”



Comprehension Connection



Before Reading

1. What do you know about Madagascar?
2. Look at the map and picture. Read the headings. What will this article be about?
3. What things do poor children need most?

During Reading

1. Why did David Krause go to Madagascar?
2. Why did David Krause help the children in Madagascar?
3. What does the word *ankizy* mean? Why does the author use it?

After Reading

1. What two good things have come out of these dinosaur digs?
2. Read the last sentence of the article. Why do you think the author ended the article that way?
3. What did this article make you think about?

Skill Focus

Questions, Questions, Questions

You have lots of questions. Before you read, you wonder what you will learn. Look at the headings and pictures. They tell you this article will be about helping people in a village on the island of Madagascar.

While you read, you ask more questions: "Why is David Krause in Madagascar? Why did he help the village?" You look for answers as you read. One sentence tells why he was there: "In 1996, Krause was digging for dinosaur bones in Madagascar." Another sentence tells why he helped: "Krause wanted to pay back the village people for their kindness."

After you read, you have more questions. A big one is "What is the big idea of this article?" Here the main idea is this: A scientist is helping poor village people and their kids live better lives.

Writer's World

1. Write a letter to kids in your community. Explain why they should give money to the Madagascar Ankizy Fund.
2. Pretend you live in Madagascar. You are going to school for the first time. Write in your diary. Tell how you feel.



The screenshot shows a Netscape browser window displaying the website <http://www.aolkidsonly.com/>. The website has a purple header with the title "Attitude on Learning" and the tagline "The Best Reading & Activities for KIDS ONLY!". A search bar is located in the header with a "Go" button and a link to "advanced search tips".

On the left side, there is a vertical navigation menu with links: Home, About Us, Your Account, Help, Shopping Cart, and Back To Main Site. The Shopping Cart section shows "Items: 0", "Total: \$0.00", and buttons for "Checkout" and "View Order".

The main content area features a "Browse Products" section with links to Books, Toy Store, Education Center, Music, Video Games, Movies, and Kids Software. Below this is a "Featured" section highlighting the book "Are You My Mother?" by Dr. Seuss, featuring the Cat in the Hat. The book is described as a wonderful book for reading at bedtime or anytime, priced at \$6.99.

A "Recommended" section displays three books: "Adventures of Curious George" (\$20.99), "Chicken Soup for Little Souls" (\$12.99), and "The Mouse and the Motorcycle" (\$5.49).

On the right side, there is a "Classic Kids Books" section featuring "The Cat in the Hat" (\$6.99) and "Babar Saves the Day" (\$2.99). A "For more Help... Click Here" button is also present.

The footer contains a navigation bar with links: Home | About Us | Customer Service | Search | Help | Security | Your Account | View Cart | Checkout.