ПРИЛОЖЕНИЕ Н.

**Me – in 3D**

I am staring at an 8-inch version of myself. Everything about us looks identical, from the curls in our hair to the wrinkles in our clothes. The

figure is pretty cool—and it wouldn’t have been possible without a 3-D printer. A 3-D printer isn’t like an ordinary printer that uses ink to put words and images on paper. Instead, it actually creates new objects, using materials like plastic or metal. A company called DOOB USA used a powder to print my “minime” The figure cost about $300. 3-D printers have been around since the 1980s, but they didn’t become popular until the past few years. These days, people are using this technology in all kinds of **innovative** ways that go far beyond making lifelike figurines.

Shop and Print

Not everyone has to go to a store to print 3-D objects. Many people are doing it themselves with home 3-D printers. Some printers cost less than $1,000. People have used them to make everything from iPhone cases and chess sets to skateboards. Anyone looking for ideas for 3-D printed objects can find plenty of inspiration online. The popular site Thingiverse, for example, has more than 100,000 free designs for users to download.

**Story**

A Helping Hand

For some people, 3-D printing is changing their lives. Dawson Riverman is one of them. The 13-year-old from Forest Grove, Oregon, was born without fingers on his left hand. His parents couldn’t afford a typical prosthetic hand, which can cost up to $10,000. Instead, Dawson got one created by a 3-D printer. The materials used to make the new hand cost only about $35. Dawson is one of at least 1,500 kids worldwide who have a 3-D printed prosthetic hand. The plastic hand opens and closes when Dawson moves his wrist. It enables him to do everyday tasks he struggled with in the past. That includes playing his favorite sport, baseball. “The 3-D printed hand helps me swing a bat and throw a ball,” Dawson says.

Out of This World

The possibilities for 3-D printing even go beyond our own

planet. Last year, astronauts used a 3-D printer for the first time aboard the International Space Station (ISS), the giant laboratory orbiting Earth. They printed 20 objects, including a wrench and a storage container.

Having a 3-D printer on the ISS could one day eliminate the need to send spacecraft toresupply the station. Those missions require months of

planning and can cost tens of millions of dollars. “Now you can just print what you need when you need it,” says engineer Brad Kohlenberg. He works for Made In Space, a company that helped develop the 3-D printer for the ISS. In the future, astronauts may even be able to print their food. NASA, the U.S. space agency, is experimenting with a 3-D printer that uses powdered ingredients to make pizza. Experts say there’s no limit to what this technology will help us create in the future. “We’re really just on the cusp right now of what 3-D printingcan do,” says Michael Anderson, the chief executive of DOOB USA. As I look at my mini-me, I’m amazed by what is already possible with 3-D printers. And I can’t wait to see what’s next. *—by Joe Bubar*