

# READING

It is human nature to want to explore and to make new discoveries. With few of the Earth's great wilderness left unexplored, space is the next great frontier. This text is about the conquest of space, but the paragraphs are jumbled. Read and put them in a logical order.

1. **D**

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

## The New Explorers

A

One solution might be to lengthen the life of space travellers, maybe by 'freezing' them for a period of many years. Of course, this is not possible at present. However, in just seventy years we have made amazing progress in technology – from the first simple aeroplanes to landing astronauts on the Moon. What will happen in the twenty-first century? We shall just have to wait and see.

B

The problems are great. Here on the Earth, the atmosphere protects us from the harsh conditions which exist in outer space. When we fly away from the Earth's surface, the air becomes thinner and so it gets more difficult to breathe. Eventually there is no air at all and we reach empty space – a vacuum.

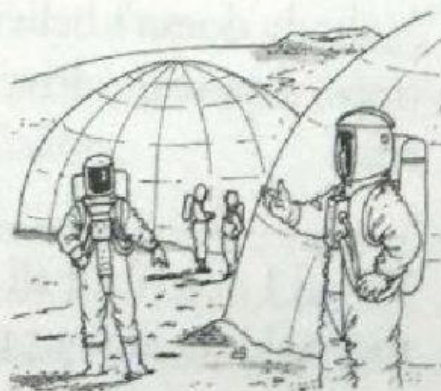
C

So, finally, will people ever rocket beyond the Moon and Mars to the stars? The stars are light years away and humans do not normally live much beyond seventy to eighty, so age is a problem.

D Fifty years ago, the idea of humans exploring and even living on other planets was just science fiction. But space scientists are working on ideas and it is a real possibility for the twenty-first century.

E In spite of these harsh conditions, one day there may be not just astronauts but colonies of inhabitants on the Moon. Because it has no atmosphere and is very cold at night and very hot by day, houses and workshops will probably be inside inflatable domes.

F After the Moon, people will probably travel to Mars. There, colonists will probably need to wear spacesuits all the time, or to stay inside pressurized domes.



**Read the text again carefully and mark the following statements True (T) or False (F).**

- |   |      |       |
|---|------|-------|
| 1. Space scientists believe that people may be able to live on other planets in the future. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 2. It becomes easier to breathe as you travel away from the Earth.                          | TRUE | FALSE |
| 3. There is no air of any kind in a vacuum.   | TRUE | FALSE |
| 4. People on the Moon will probably live and work in domes filled with air.                 | TRUE | FALSE |
| 5. People on Mars would have to wear spacesuits when they go inside pressurized domes.      | TRUE | FALSE |
| 6. At the moment, humans cannot travel to the stars because their lives are too short.      | TRUE | FALSE |
| 7. Scientist are now able to make people live longer by freezing them.                      | TRUE | FALSE |
| 8. Progress in technology has been very rapid.  | TRUE | FALSE |