

LIVING IN SPACE

- A** Stephen Hawking, one of the world's most famous scientists, believed that to survive, humans will one day have to move into space. "Once we spread out into space and establish **independent** colonies, our future should be safe," he said.
- B** Today, the United States, Europe, Russia, China, and Japan are all planning to send astronauts back to Earth's closest **neighbor**: the moon. Some of these countries want to create space stations there within the next 10 years. These stations will prepare humans to visit and later live on Mars or other Earthlike planets.
- C** Robert Zubrin, a rocket scientist, thinks humans should colonize space. He wants to start with Mars. Why? He thinks sending people to Mars will allow us to learn a lot of things—for example, the ability of humans to live in a very different **environment**. Eventually, we could create new human societies on other planets. In addition, any **advances** we make in the fields of science, technology, **medicine**, and health will **benefit** people here on Earth.
- D** SpaceX is a company that builds rockets. Its founder and CEO, Elon Musk, also believes we should colonize Mars. He doesn't want to send just "one little **mission**," though. His long-term goal is to put one million people on the planet in case something bad happens to us here on Earth.
- E** Not everyone thinks sending humans into space is a smart idea. Many say it's too expensive. Also, most space trips are not short. A one-way trip to Mars, for example, would take at least six months. People traveling this kind of distance could face many health problems. In addition, these first people would find life extremely difficult in space. On the moon's **surface**, for example, the sun's rays¹ are very dangerous. People would have to stay indoors most of the time.
- F** Despite these **concerns**, sending people into space seems certain. In the future, we might see lunar² cities or even new human **cultures** on other planets. First stop: the moon. 1. The sun's rays are narrow beams of light from the sun. 2. Lunar means "related to the moon."

1. The **sun's rays** are narrow beams of light from the sun.

2. **Lunar** means "related to the moon."

A. Choose the best answer for each question.

1. What is the main purpose of this passage?

- a. to give reasons for and against space colonization
- b. to describe what life would be like on the moon
- c. to compare the environments of Mars and the moon

2. What does *our* in Stephen Hawking's quote "our future should be safe" (paragraph A) refer to?

- a. scientists'
- b. humans'
- c. colonies'

3. Why are some countries planning to build lunar space stations?

- a. to learn more about the moon's space surface
- b. to reduce the number of people living on Earth
- c. to prepare humans to live on other planets

4. Which reason for living in space is NOT mentioned?

- a. We can learn if humans can live in a very different environment from that of Earth.
- b. We can establish human societies on other planets besides Earth.
- c. We can search for signs of intelligent life elsewhere in the universe.

5. What does *First stop: the moon* mean in the last sentence?

- a. Everybody wants to visit the moon first.
- b. All spaceships to other planets have to stop at the moon first.
- c. The first human colony in space will likely be on the moon.

B. Match each paragraph with its main idea.

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| 1. Paragraph B | a. There are several reasons not to send humans to space. |
| 2. Paragraph C | b. A mission to Mars should be designed on a large scale. |
| 3. Paragraph D | c. Many countries are planning missions to the moon and beyond. |
| 4. Paragraph E | d. There are a number of reasons to travel to Mars. |