Active and Passive Voice

Worksheet A Name: _____

In the **active voice**, the subject performs the action expressed by the verb.
Example: The boy *kicked* the ball.
The subject of the sentence is "boy," and because he is the one who threw the ball, this is a sentence in the active voice.

In the **passive voice**, the action is performed upon, instead of by, the subject.
Example: The ball *was thrown* by the boy.
In this sentence, the subject is "ball," but the ball is not what does the throwing. Instead the ball is the thing that is thrown. The subject is not doing an action, but receiving the action, so this sentence is in the passive voice.

Directions: On the line, write the letter A if the underlined verb or verb phrase is in the active voice, and P if it is in the passive voice.

___P___ 1. Black holes *can be caused* by the collapse of a massive star.

_____ 2. A star nearly three trillion miles in diameter *can be compressed* into a sphere the size of a large city.

_____ 3. Princeton physicist John Wheeler *coined* the term "black hole" in 1967.

_____ 4. The powerful gravitational pull of a black hole *prevents* even light from escaping.

_____ 5. The black appearance of black holes *is caused* by the absorption of all light.

_____ 6. Black holes often *lie* at the center of most galaxies.

_____ 7. Supermassive black holes *are millions* or more times larger than the mass of our sun.

_____ 8. The center of a black hole *is called* a singularity.

_____ 9. Matter *is pulled* infinitely dense at the singularity.

_____ 10. Black holes *have* a point of no return surrounding called the "event horizon."

_____ 11. No object *can escape* once it reaches the event horizon.

_____ 12. Breathtaking things *happen* when an object *reaches* the point of no return.

_____ 13. An outside observer *will think* the object *is traveling* infinitely slow because of an effect called gravitational time dilation.

_____ 14. The observer *will* never actually *see* the object *disappear* into the black hole.

_____ 15. Gravitational redshift *will cause* the object to appear redder and dimmer.

_____ 16. The object *will be torn* apart by tidal forces.

_____ 17. These tidal forces *cause* a process called "spaghettification" or "the noodle effect."

_____ 18. If, for example, a car *fell* into a black hole front bumper first, the tidal forces *would make* the front bumper *travel* so much faster than the back bumper that the car *would stretch* out to the breaking point.

_____ 19. This force *would stretch* the car until it *is reduced* to a string of atoms, like a long spaghetti noodle.

_____ 20. This "noodle" of atoms *will eventually be pulled* into the singularity.

