Worksheet on Space

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Read the following text very carefully:

Tuesday, 21 October 2003, 1:00

Colonize space or die, says Hawking

Professor Stephen Hawking has told the Daily Telegraph that the human race faces the prospects of being wiped out by a crisis of its own creation. "The danger is that either by accident or design, we create a virus that destroys us," he told the UK newspaper in an interview publication Tuesday.

"I don't think that the human race will survive the next thousand years, unless we spread into space. There are too many accidents that can befall life on a single planet," he said. But Professor Hawking professor of mathematics at Cambridge University, said that he was optimistic that humanity would manage to reach out to the stars.

Ending, neither was physics, he says, presents the biggest challenge to the survival of the human race. "Although I'd be hard to know how humanity should be constant the human race, the nuclear weapons do. If I'm lucky both, I am more worried about biology. Evolved weapons could be further, and genetic engineering can be done in a small lab," he told the paper. "We can't regulate every lab in the world," he said.

Experts predict that travel to other planets will only be possible to huge "interstars". These will consider through space for hundreds or even thousands of years. Each will contain a large human population. Then, when the ship discovers a suitable new planet, some of these people will return it. Later, they'll build their interstars which will go even further. This way, the human race will gradually colonize the whole universe. So for a year day, life on Earth could have a distant memory.

(Source: The BBC News Online)

A. Say whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE.

1. Professor Hawking gave this interview to a radio station.
2. "The human race will disappear due to a self created disease".
3. "The only way to escape human destruction is the thrust into space".
4. He considers the events of September 11, to be the worst threat to human race.
5. Experts predict that people will know whether and they find an inside lab/planet to colonize.

B. What do the following words refer to in the text?

1. "we" - line 1
2. "I" - line 6
3. "it" - line 8

C. Please answer the following questions on the text. Use your own words as far as possible.

1. What does Professor Hawking say about the future of human race?
2. Why does he consider genetic engineering therefore powerful weapon in the world?
3. According to the article how will the manage to colonize distant planets?
4. Do you agree with professor Hawking's opinion about the future of human race? Why or why not? How do you imagine the space?