



Name _____

Information and Study Skills

Read the passage. Then read each question and fill in the circle next to the best answer.

Journeys of the Future

Spaceships of tomorrow will need to be faster and more powerful to take people to places beyond Earth's moon. Scientists are working to build new spaceships and find better ways to power them.

To escape Earth's gravity, a spaceship must reach a speed of seven miles per second. This uses millions of pounds of hydrogen fuel, which is expensive.

Scientists are looking at other types of power, such as laser beams. Giant lasers on the ground would aim beams at the ship's base. The laser beams would heat the air inside the base, making it expand and causing the ship to lift off. The spaceship would then need another type of power to push it through space.

One possibility is to use atomic power — the splitting or fusing (bringing together) of atoms. Splitting or fusing parts of atoms creates high temperatures. These high temperatures could heat and expand hydrogen gas. The gas could then shoot from the back of the spaceship, making it go forward at thousands of miles per second. At this speed, a trip to Mars might take weeks instead of months.

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1. If you were taking notes on this passage, which best describes the main idea of all your notes?
 - A. using expensive fuel
 - B. using laser power to travel through space
 - C. finding the distance from Earth to Mars
 - D. ways to power future spaceships

2. Which of these is an important fact to remember from the first paragraph?
 - F. Humans may soon travel to places beyond Earth's moon.
 - G. Scientists are working to design new spaceships.
 - H. Future spaceships must be faster and more powerful.
 - J. Beyond Earth's moon are many places to visit.

3. Which of these ideas from the second paragraph should **not** be a note about the topic, *Escaping Earth's Gravity*?
 - A. Hydrogen fuel costs a lot of money.
 - B. Gravity makes space travel difficult.
 - C. Spaceships must travel seven miles per second.
 - D. Automobiles use a different type of fuel.

4. Which of these facts from the third paragraph is important to remember?
 - F. Heating an object causes it to expand.
 - G. Laser beams could power spaceships.
 - H. Spaceships need power to lift off.
 - J. Laser beams are a source of heat.

5. Which information can be left out when taking notes on this passage?
 - A. A space trip to Mars takes months.
 - B. We need fuel for space travel that costs less money.
 - C. Laser beams might power spaceships.
 - D. Spaceships might use atomic power.

