

### 3 Do we really have a choice?

- A.** Read the text. In a chart, classify the arguments against the conquest of space and those which are in favour of it.
- B.** Explain the comparison of space conquest with Christopher Columbus's discovery of America.
- C.** Why is space conquest as important as the current climate issues according to Stephen Hawking?
- D. Class debate.** What makes this solution paradoxical? Think about the role of technology in the history of humanity.

### YOUR TURN! 4 "The 100"

- A.** Watch the trailer of the series *The 100* online. To what extent does this series mirror Stephen Hawking's warnings about our future?
- B.** As one of Stephen Hawking's former students, write a review of the trailer for the series, explaining the parallel with Hawking's research and give your opinion.

#### HELP!

##### Tips to answer the questions

- Use "if clauses" and superlatives to make your "doomsday warning" about the future.
- Use comparatives to draw a parallel between the series and your own opinions.

Why should we go into space? What is the justification for spending all that effort and money on getting a few lumps of moon rock? Aren't there better causes here on Earth? The obvious answer is because it's there, all around us. Not to leave planet Earth would be like castaways on a desert island not trying to escape. We need to explore the solar system to find out where humans could live. In a way, the situation is like that in Europe before 1492. People might well have argued that it was a waste of money to send Columbus on a wild goose chase<sup>1</sup>. Yet the discovery of the New World made a profound difference to the Old. [...]

This would be a long-term strategy, and by long term I mean hundreds or even thousands of years. We could have a base on the Moon within thirty years, reach Mars in fifty years and explore the moons of the outer planets in 200 years. By reach, I mean in spacecraft with humans aboard. We have already driven rovers on Mars and landed a probe<sup>2</sup> on Titan, a moon of Saturn, but if we are considering the future of the human race we have to go there ourselves. [...] There will be those who argue that it would be better to spend our money solving the problems of this planet, like climate change and pollution, rather than wasting it on a possibly fruitless search for a new planet. I'm not denying the importance of fighting climate change and global warming, but we can do that and still spare a quarter of a per cent of world GDP<sup>3</sup> for space. Isn't our future worth a quarter of a per cent? [...]

I was quoted at the time as saying that I feared the human race is not going to have a future if we don't go into space. I believed it then, and I believe it still. And I hope I demonstrated then that anyone can take part in space travel. I believe it is up to scientists like me, together with innovative commercial entrepreneurs, to do all we can to promote the excitement and wonder of space travel.

1 *quête futile* • 2 *sonde* • 3 *PIB*

*Brief Answers to the Big Questions,*  
Stephen Hawking, 2018

