

KEEPING SPACE GREEN

Plans to exploit the "final frontier" have been met with growing concern by numerous environmental organisations around the world. "Green" movements fighting to protect the world's last great wilderness, the Antarctic, from industrial development are horrified by what they see as the prospect of Man's destruction of nature extending to space.

The 1998 Antarctic Environmental Protocol, signed by 26 countries, could, in fact, prove to be a model for any future agreement designed to preserve the space from the ravages of Man. This protocol prohibits mining in the Antarctic for 50 years and sets strict limits for pollution and waste disposal, as well as providing measures to protect flora and fauna. Such protection could also be necessary for the Moon, to defend it from visitors such as the *TrailBlazer*, set to grace the lunar surface with cremated human remains.

Much more worrying for some environmentalists is the possibility of using nuclear power in space - using nuclear rockets to reach Mars, or powering mining colonies with nuclear reactors. The nuclear debate, it seems, has now gone into orbit.

Questions

1. State in your own words what the author means when he says: "The nuclear debate, it seems, has now gone into orbit" (2 marks)

2. Say in each case whether the statement is true or false according to the text. Write T or F. If the answer is not mentioned in the text, mark it as false. (2 marks)
 - a) plans to exploit the Antarctic are unimportant to environmentalists _____
 - b) waste can be found everywhere in the Antarctic _____
 - c) the Moon has not a protocol to be preserved from Man's ravages _____
 - d) nuclear power is already used in space _____

3. These words are found in the text: *frontier, concern, development, prospect, signed, agreement, preserve, ravages, waste, grace, cremated, rockets*. Choose the ones that mean the same as the following: (2 marks)
 - a) rubbish _____
 - b) boundary _____
 - c) conformity _____
 - d) growth _____

