**Genes and Disease – Reading Guide**

**Activity**

**Name: Date: Period:**

Read the article “Genes and Disease” and answer the following questions:

1. As a result of the Human Genome Project, do you think the use of genetics in medical care and research will increase, decrease, or stay about the same?
2. The article says that all diseases have a genetic component, either inherited or from the body’s response to the environment. Of the following disorders, which do you think are inherited genetic diseases (G) and which do you think relate to environmental stresses (E)?

\_\_\_\_ High blood pressure

\_\_\_\_ Cystic fibrosis

\_\_\_\_ AIDS

\_\_\_\_ Alzheimer’s disease

\_\_\_\_ Diabetes

\_\_\_\_ Hemophilia

\_\_\_\_ Heart attack

\_\_\_\_ Lung cancer

\_\_\_\_ Chicken pox

1. In your own words, explain what biotech companies are doing with gene identification, and how could that affect you?
2. What is the difference between a disease that “results from the body’s response to environmental toxins or viruses” and an “acquired” disease?
3. Using genes to treat disease is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. What do gene mutation, cigarette smoking and cancer have in common?
5. Explain how you can be born with a gene for a genetic disease and yet live a normal life without the symptoms of the disease.