WarGames movie Worksheet

Name:_____ Period: _____

Exploring Computer Science

Mr. Bergquist, Room 115a

WarGames came out in 1983 and despite this, it addresses several issues and concerns about computers that remain today. **Please review the questions below and take an occasional note while you watch the film so you can answer the "a)" questions after the film.** The "b)" questions require you to think about the current use of computers and how each concept is relevant today. Answer all questions after the movie and there will be time on Friday to possibly finish the movie and complete this worksheet. This worksheet is worth 15 points of class work.

Background:

From the mid-1940's to 1991, the US and the Soviet Union both had built up nuclear weapons and had missiles aimed at each in a continuing state of fear of nuclear war, referred to as the "Cold War". NORAD, the North American Aerospace Defense Command (www.norad.mil), was established to monitor airspace to detect any such missiles approaching the US and Canada. NORAD continues to monitor airspace today to detect any air attacks from the north and ensure the security of the US and Canada.

1. Passwords

a) How did David get the password to his school's computer system?

b) What other passwords have we seen people leave out lately that could be used by others?

2. Connecting to computers

In the 1980's and continuing through the 2000's users connected to other computers and later to the Internet with modems using digital sound through the microphone and receiver of a telephone, like David used in the movie to access his school computer and later to NORAD.

a) How did David stumble on the phone number to the NORAD computer?

b) Most people no longer use phone calls to connect to other computers, what are two of the major ways users connect to the Internet and other computers today?

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3. Gaining Access
The Hackers instruct David to use a "Backdoor" to get into the NORAD computer system.
a) What is a Backdoor to a computer program or system?

b) Do you think that Backdoors are still created for systems today? And if so, what might they be used for?

4. Computer Hardware
a) What is the name of big computer with all the flashing lights on it that is playing *Global Thermonuclear War* with David?

b) Do you think that big computers like that one are still in use today?

5. Human-like Computers
a) How is it possible for the computer to answer David like it was a human? What can this computer do that most others could not in the 1980's?

b) Are there computers with this ability in use today? Where are they used?

6. Futility of the Game
a) What game does David have the computer play at the end of the movie? Why is this helpful?

b) Write some rules to follow to win or at least always tie in this game?