

The SN 10: Scientists to Watch

Student Comprehension Worksheet

Directions: After reading "[The next champs of green chemistry](#)," answer the following questions.

1. Who is Michelle O'Malley? What organisms does she study and why?
2. What substance do the fungal enzymes break down? Why are researchers interested in this substance?
3. How is the substance described in question 2 currently broken down? Why is this not a great approach?
4. According to the article, what personal characteristics have helped Michelle O'Malley as a scientist? What is the source of that insight into O'Malley's personality?
5. How did Michelle O'Malley find a mentor in her field? How did her mentor support her research goals?
6. What two phrases does Michelle O'Malley use to describe the technique for growing anaerobic fungi? Why are these phrases appropriate for describing the technique?
7. What did Michelle O'Malley's team find out about the phylum of fungi called Neocallimastigomycota? Why is that finding interesting?

8. What STEM field(s) does Michelle O'Malley study? Describe how her research connects to each field?

9. What other types of careers could scientists in these fields pursue?