

**Student Comprehension Worksheet**

**Directions:** After reading the online *Science News* article "[If bacteria band together, they can survive for years in space](#)," answer the following questions. A version of the story, "Bacteria can survive for years in space," can be found in the September 26, 2020 issue of *Science News*.

- 1. Why is outer space not friendly to most known life-forms?**
- 2. What type of bacteria did scientists use in an experiment on the International Space Station? Why did scientists choose to study these bacteria?**
- 3. What was the purpose of the experiment? Describe the experimental procedure in your own words.**
- 4. What were the independent and dependent variables of the experiment? Explain how you know.**
- 5. What were the results of the experiment? Explain.**
- 6. What is the maximum estimated time the bacteria in 1,000-micrometer pellets could survive in outer space, according to the researchers' estimates?**
- 7. How might bacteria unintentionally end up in outer space, according to the researchers? Can you think of another way bacteria could end up in outer space?**
- 8. What implications do the findings have for life elsewhere in the universe?**

**9. Find a word or concept in the story that is new to you. Define it using the context given in the article.**

**10. What makes the experiment an example of a successful collaboration in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)?**