

## **Student Discussion Worksheet**

**Directions:** Discuss and answer the following questions about the COVID-19 pandemic with either a classroom partner or a family member. Then, interview your partner or family member about their experience with the pandemic and vice versa and write up a summary of their responses.

### **Pandemic timeline**

Read the online *Science News* article "[This COVID-19 pandemic timeline shows how fast the coronavirus took over our lives](#)," then use the following questions to discuss the timeline of events with a partner or a family member. Make sure your partner has had the opportunity to read the article as well. A version of this story, "A year of living with a new virus," appears in the December 19, 2020 & January 2, 2021 issue of *Science News*.

1. What types of events are included in the timeline? How do events during the early months of the pandemic compare with later months?
2. What three adjectives best summarize your reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic timeline?
3. Are there any events in the timeline that surprise you? If so, explain.
4. What sources do you use to keep up with pandemic news? Do you notice any discrepancies between your prior knowledge of events and the information presented in the timeline? If so, why might the timeline differ from your memory of events?
5. Add at least three events to the timeline that reflect what you know of your community's local response to the pandemic. How do your events compare with the national and global events mentioned? Explain.

## Unanswered questions

Discuss and list two questions you have about the COVID-19 pandemic with your partner or family member. Suggest strategies for how scientists could address your questions.

Question 1:

Question 2:

## Looking for answers

Read the online *Science News* article "[As 2020 comes to an end, here's what we still don't know about COVID-19](#)," and answer the following questions. A version of this story, "Lingering questions about COVID-19," appears in the December 19, 2020 & January 2, 2021 issue of *Science News*.

1. How do your questions compare with the questions covered in the *Science News* article? Did you ask a question that was covered in the *Science News* article?
2. If either of your questions were covered in the *Science News* article, did the article cover proposed strategies for how to answer the question? How does your proposed strategy compare with what scientists are doing? Based on the information given in the article, about how close are scientists and officials to answering the question?

## Share your voices

Read at least one expert interview highlighted in the online *Science News* article "[Hear from people taking action against COVID-19](#)." Some interviews appear in the December 19, 2020 & January 2, 2021 issue of *Science News* as "Voices from the pandemic." Then, use the following questions to interview your partner or a family member about their own pandemic experience. Use the answers to write a "Voices from the pandemic" entry about your partner or family member. Once you've interviewed your partner or family member, they should interview and write an entry about you.

1. What is your name? Where do you live and what do you do?
2. How has the pandemic changed your life?
3. What do you miss about your old life?

4. How do you think your life will be different six months from now? Do you think you will have resumed hobbies and activities that you enjoyed before the pandemic? What do you think the next school year will look like?

5. What hopes do you have for the end of the pandemic and your life afterward?