

September 25, 2021

When Fans Are Away, Home Teams Lose Their Sway**Student Comprehension Worksheet**

Directions: Read the online *Science News* article "[‘Ghost games’ spotlight the psychological effect fans have on referees](#)," which describes research into a phenomenon in sports known as home field advantage, and answer the following questions. A version of the story, "When fans are away, home teams lose their sway," appears in the September 25, 2021 issue of *Science News*.

1. What does the term ‘ghost games’ mean, according to the *Science News* article?
2. Why did sports teams play in ‘ghost games’?
3. What is home field advantage?
4. What is one scientific claim made by the scientists as described by the article?
5. What evidence supports the scientists’ claim? Be sure to state where the evidence comes from.
6. What reasoning is given for why the evidence supports the claim?
7. How might the research be useful to referees, according to sports psychologist Michael Leitner?
8. What’s another question that you could study using data from ‘ghost games’?