

Student Comprehension Worksheet

Directions: Read the online *Science News* "[When James Webb launches, it will have a bigger to-do list than 1980s researchers suspected](#)," which details the long journey of NASA's James Webb Space Telescope to make it into space to explore other galaxies, and answer the following questions. A version of the story, "The origami satellite," appears in the October 9, 2021 & October 23, 2021 issue of *Science News*.

- 1. What is the James Webb Space Telescope?**
- 2. What makes the James Webb Space Telescope different from previous space telescopes?**
- 3. Why is the telescope's mirror so large? What is the purpose of the telescope's shield?**
- 4. Who is the telescope named for, and why did scientists choose that name? Why is the choice potentially controversial?**
- 5. Why did scientists nickname the James Webb Space Telescope the "origami telescope"?**
- 6. When did scientists first come up with plans for the telescope, and when will it launch?**
- 7. List some reasons for the delay of the telescope's launch.**
- 8. Where will the telescope launch from, and how is it getting to its launch site? What is the telescope's final destination?**

9. How has science changed since the telescope's inception? How does the telescope that scientists built differ from their original idea for the telescope?

10. Look at the section titled "What could go wrong?" in the *Science News* article. How long will it take for the telescope to reach its destination and start taking scientific measurements? Name at least two major milestones between the telescope's launch and when it begins its mission.

11. How long is the telescope estimated to "live" once it reaches its final destination? Why does the telescope have a fixed lifetime, and what will happen when it retires?

12. Give an example of a literary device that is used in the article. What type of literary device is it?