Student Comprehension Worksheet

**Directions:** Read the online *Science News* article “[Organic molecules in an ancient Mars meteorite formed via geology, not alien life](https://www.sciencenews.org/science-animals/organic-molecules-ancient-mars-meteorite-formed-via-geology-not-alien-life),” which describes new research into the origin of organic material found in a space rock, and answer the following questions. A version of the article, “Meteorite’s organics aren’t signs of life,” appears in the February 12, 2022 issue of *Science News*.

1. **In the 1990s, what did scientists report about a meteorite from Mars that was found in Antarctica?**

2. **At the time, what were two theories that scientists came up with to explain the finding?**

3. **Name two ways that organic molecules can form.**

4. **What has recent research revealed about the meteorite’s organic molecules?**

5. **How and where do scientists now think the molecules formed? Describe the evidence that supports the scientists’ claim in your answer.**

6. **What does the new finding and evidence from other Martian meteorites suggest about the formation of organic molecules on Mars? What about the search for life on the planet?**