

Student Comprehension Worksheet

Directions: Read the online *Science News* article "[Organic molecules in an 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?**