

### Student Discussion Worksheet

**Directions:** Read the online *Science News* article "[How climbers help scientists vibe with Utah's famous red rock formations](#)" and the *Science News for Students* article "[Let's learn about citizen science](#)," then answer the following questions as directed by your teacher. A version of the *Science News* article, "Climbers help scientists vibe with Utah's rocks," appears in the April 23, 2022 issue.

#### What is citizen science?

1. Define "citizen science" in your own words, based on your understanding of the *Science News for Students* article "[Let's learn about citizen science](#)."

2. What is the purpose of citizen science? How does it contribute to scientific research?

3. Describe the citizen science highlighted in the *Science News* article "[How climbers help scientists vibe with Utah's famous red rock formations](#)." How did a person without a formal scientific background contribute to a research study?

4. Visit the Society for Science webpage [Research from Home: Citizen Science](#) and search for citizen science projects you could do in your local area or online. What opportunities appeal to you?

5. What kind of help do scientists need for the citizen science project you explored? Are there any common themes among projects?

#### Turning hobbies into science explorations

1. Make a list of your hobbies and interests. When making your list, think about favorite class projects you've done and activities that you enjoy outside of school.

2. Do any of the citizen science projects featured in [Research from Home: Citizen Science](#) incorporate a hobby or interest of yours? Are you interested in participating in one of the projects? Explain.

3. Choose two of the hobbies or interests you listed and brainstorm something you wonder or observe while engaging in the hobby or interest.
  
4. Turn one of your answers to the question above into a measurable scientific question that could be explored in a controlled experiment. What data would you need to measure and how would you measure it?
  
5. Could calling on citizen scientists enhance your data set or allow you to explore a broader question? How would volunteers go about collecting data for your experiment? Explain.
  
6. What ethical concerns might you need to consider when conducting your experiment?

