

**Student Comprehension Worksheet**

**Directions:** Read and answer questions about the online *Science News* article "[Humans may not be able to handle as much heat as scientists thought](#)," which explores the effects of extreme heat on the body and what that means for us as heat waves intensify around the globe. A version of the article, "How much heat can we handle?" appears in the August 27, 2022 issue of *Science News*.

- 1. What type of extreme weather event was a hallmark of summer 2022?**
- 2. How can extreme heat impact the body?**
- 3. What are some ways that the body keeps itself cool? How does the environment affect how the body cools itself?**
- 4. What is the theoretical maximum temperature that humans can endure? What regions of the world are projected to regularly exceed this temperature in the near future?**
- 5. What is humankind's real-world threshold for heat stress, according to recent experiments?**
- 6. How do the findings compare with the theoretical threshold? What do the findings suggest about the impacts of heat waves on people?**
- 7. Why are heat waves at temperatures lower than the thresholds still dangerous? Explain.**
- 8. How are researchers and government officials raising awareness about heat waves?**
- 9. What is the first named heat wave called? Where and when did the heat wave happen?**

**Analyze this**

**1. Look at the graph titled “Rising heat.” What type of graph is it?**

**2. What does the graph show?**

**3. What is shown on the x- and y-axis? Make sure to include units in your answer.**

**4. Describe the trend shown by the graph. How has the heat-wave season in the United States changed over time?**