

**Student Comprehension Worksheet**

**Directions:** Read the online *Science News* article "[The world population has now reached 8 billion](#)," which explores trends in human population growth, and answer the following questions. A version of the article, "Human population hits a milestone," appears in the December 17, 2022 & December 31, 2022 issue of *Science News*.

- 1. How many people were estimated to live on Earth as of November 15, 2022, according to the United Nations?**
- 2. How might the global population change over time according to U.N. projections?**
- 3. When will the global population peak, and what number will it peak at?**
- 4. How is the new peak estimate different from the previous estimate? Why do you think the estimate changed?**
- 5. Does global population growth mean that every country and region will see their populations grow? Explain.**
- 6. What does United Nations official Maria-Francesca Spatolisano say about the effects of population growth on the environment? Who does she say is largely responsible for managing those effects?**