

February 25, 2023

Voles Don't Need Oxytocin to Bond

Student Comprehension Worksheet

Directions: Please read the online *Science News* article "[Prairie voles can find partners just fine without the 'love hormone' oxytocin](#)" and answer the following questions. A version of the article "Voles don't need oxytocin to bond" appears in the February 25, 2023 issue of *Science News*.

1. What is oxytocin, and what role does it play in the lives of humans and other mammals?
2. Which research findings described in this article made scientists think oxytocin was required for prairie voles to form pair-bonds and mate for life?
3. Which new technology did biologist Devanand Manoli and his colleagues use in their prairie vole study? How did the technology alter the prairie voles and allow the researchers to study their pair-bonding behavior?
4. How did the modified prairie voles behave?
5. How did the new study differ from past studies on oxytocin and prairie vole behavior? How did using a new technology produce surprising results?
6. What are possible next steps in the research on pair-bonding in voles?

Optional extension: Using the main scientific finding from the article, outline the scientists' claim, evidence and reasoning to support their finding.