

Name: _____

Science Article

1. Just reading the title of this article, what do you think the article will be about?

2. What do you already know about this subject (or *any* words in the title)? (Brainstorm and include *anything* that comes to mind. This part doesn't need to be in complete sentences.)

3. You'll now be given the article itself. Look at any diagrams, photos, illustrations. Read the captions for these. Scan the first sentence of each paragraph. Now, briefly describe what you think the article is about.

4. Now read the article. As you read the article, make a list of words you are unfamiliar with. Write down what you *think* they might mean from the context (how they're used in the sentence). Then look up the word in the dictionary. List at **least** one word, but no more than three.

WORD	MEANING FROM CONTEXT	DICTIONARY MEANING

5. In just one or two sentences, summarize the main idea(s) of this article (What happened? What experiment was conducted? What was observed? What was learned? Why is it important?).

Synthetic Microbe Lives with Fewer than 500 Genes

6. What is the name of the organism produced by Craig Venter and associates, and how many genes does it have?
7. How are biologists hoping to use this new organism? What do they say needs to be done first, however (what don't the scientists know about this new organism)?
8. To produce the current organism, Venter and his colleague, Hutchison, formed two teams. What was the result of their work?
9. How does the gene size of syn 3.0 compare to that of a human?
10. Which organism had the smallest genome for a freely living organism before syn 3.0? How big was its genome? What advantage for researchers, other than the smaller genome size, does syn 3.0 have over that organism?