

Student Comprehension Worksheet

Directions: Read the online *Science News* article "[Insect swarms might generate as much electric charge as storm clouds](#)" and answer the following questions. A version of the article, "Insect swarms might electrify the sky" appears in the December 3, 2022 issue of *Science News*.

- 1. How does the author hook you into reading the article? What literary device does the author use and why do you think they chose this literary device?**
- 2. What types of things does the atmosphere's electric field influence?**
- 3. How are flying insects like particles in the atmosphere, according to physicist Joseph Dwyer?**
- 4. What unexpected observation led scientists to investigate the question: How does biology influence atmospheric electricity?**
- 5. A claim is an assertion of something as a fact. What is one scientific claim made by scientists in the article that attempted to answer their new scientific question?**
- 6. Evidence is the scientific data that are given to support a claim. What information do the scientists give as evidence?**
- 7. Reasoning is the explanation of why the evidence supports the claim. What reasoning is given by the scientists?**
- 8. Why were scientists interested in studying locusts?**

9. Could locust swarms generate enough electricity to produce lightning? How might the electricity produced by insect swarms affect people?