



Mission 8 Logbook **What Is Life?**

SETI INSTITUTE What Can We Observe to Test For Life?

Characteristics of Life-Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. List all the characteristics of life that your class considers to be valid:
2. Select the two characteristics of life from this class list that you feel would be best to use to test for the presence of life on another world using a spacecraft or a lander. For each one, describe an experiment that would tell you if a “mystery Martian blob” were alive or not. Be sure to describe the results that you would expect from your experiment if the blob were living (positive results) and if the blob were nonliving (negative results).

Characteristic # 1:

Experiment # 1:

Positive Results:

Negative Results:



What Is Life? What Can We Observe to Test For Life?

SETI INSTITUTE Characteristics of Life-Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. List all the characteristics of life that your class considers to be valid:
2. Select the two characteristics of life from this class list that you feel would be best to use to test for the presence of life on another world using a spacecraft or a lander. For each one, describe an experiment that would tell you if a “mystery Martian blob” were alive or not. Be sure to describe the results that you would expect from your experiment if the blob were living (positive results) and if the blob were nonliving (negative results).

Characteristic # 1:

Experiment # 1:

Positive Results:

Negative Results:



What Is Life? What Can We Observe to Test for Life?

SETI INSTITUTE Characteristics of Life-Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Characteristic # 2:

Experiment # 2:

Positive Results:

Negative Results:

3. If you saw photographs of the plastic plant and the living plant on Mars, could you tell if either one was alive? Pick one characteristic of life and design a process or method that would allow your lander to test for that characteristic in these Martian “mystery plants.”