

Name: _____ Date: _____

“Yes, Aliens (Probably) Exist” Quiz

Directions: Read “Yes, Aliens (Probably) Exist” and “Disaster at the Speed of Sound.” Answer the questions below.

- Which of the following best describes the first section of “Yes, Aliens (Probably) Exist”?
 - The author imagines what it would be like if aliens landed in New York City.
 - The author describes an event from 1938 when many people believed that aliens had landed in New York City.
 - The author describes an event from 1938 when aliens landed in New York City.
 - The author summarizes the history of the search for extraterrestrial life.
- Choose the phrase that would best replace *support life* as it is used in the following sentence from page 18: “To support life as we know it, a planet must meet certain criteria.”
 - confirm that life exists
 - hold the weight of living beings
 - keep life going
 - defend the truth of life
- Why does Lauren Tarshis call Kepler-186f “the closest we have come to finding Earth’s twin”?
 - The two planets are home to many of the same plants and animals.
 - Kepler-186f looks exactly like Earth.
 - Kepler-186f is about the same age as Earth.
 - The two planets are similar in size and temperature.
- Which of the following is a way that the author of “Disaster at the Speed of Sound” describes space exploration?
 - It’s old-fashioned.
 - It’s necessary.
 - It’s pointless.
 - It’s expensive.
- Choose the statement that best supports your answer to question 4.
 - “The International Space Station cost \$150 billion.”
 - “Then again, our government already has many priorities . . .”
 - “But the test flight on October 31, 2014, was a disaster . . .”
 - “Never before have scientists been more convinced that there is life on other planets.”
- Which idea do both articles include?
 - Scientists say we may find life on other planets.
 - There may be better uses for our country’s time, effort, and money than space exploration.
 - Finding life on another planet would be among the most important discoveries ever made.
 - Space exploration is dangerous.

Constructed-Response Questions

Directions: Write your answers to the questions below on the back of this paper or type them up on a computer.

- What attitude toward space exploration does the author of “Yes, Aliens (Probably) Exist” express? What words, phrases, and details does she include that convey this attitude?
- How does Peter Ajian support his statement that “blasting into space has always been risky”? Include two pieces of evidence in your answer.