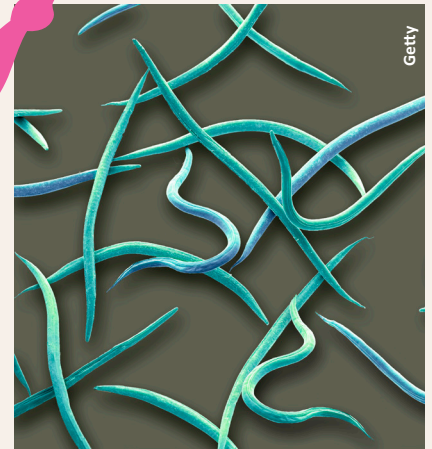


Read the story, and then try the puzzle. To help you, we have underlined the answers to the crossword puzzle clues in the story – but you will need to match the correct word with each clue!



BIG NEWS

SQUID AND WORMS SENT TO SPACE



A baby bobtail squid

LAST Thursday, NASA and SpaceX sent thousands of tiny worms, and more than 100 baby squid, into space.

A rocket carrying the tiny creatures blasted off from Florida on its way to the International Space Station (ISS).

The baby bobtail squid were sent into space on a SpaceX Falcon 9, as part of the Understanding of Microgravity on Animal-Microbe Interactions experiment.

In the sea, bobtail squid (*Euprymna scolopes*) have bacteria that lives within them called *Vibrio fischeri*, which helps the squid to glow. This glow can hide it from predators.

Scientists will be watching this process take place on the ISS, to learn how a lack of gravity might affect it.

The worms – also known as microscopic nematodes – are being sent up courtesy of the Universities of Exeter and Nottingham.

Despite being tiny, wiggly creatures, the worms actually share many biological traits with humans. And much like us, they start to lose their muscle when in space.

Scientists will be watching the worms to learn which molecules within the creatures are responsible for this muscle loss.

This information could then be used to create treatments for genetic problems, such as muscular dystrophy, that cause the muscles to weaken. It could also help us to learn how we can safely send humans on long-term missions into deep space.

ACROSS

- 2) An invisible force that pulls objects towards each other and causes things to fall to the ground on Earth (noun 7)
- 4) Very small and only visible with a special viewing device (adjective 11)
- 6) Launched with a big explosion (verb 7)
- 7) Involving more than one country (adjective 13)

DOWN

- 1) The actions that lead to a particular result (noun 7)
- 3) To do with living things (adjective 10)
- 5) Animals that hunt other animals for food (plural noun 9)
- 6) Tiny organisms, some of which can cause diseases (plural noun 8)

