Barophiles can live in highly pressurized places such as the bottom of the ocean floor near hot vents like those seen on the front of this card.

**EXTREME ABILITY**  Whereas most living creatures cannot survive the extreme forces that exist below the Earth’s surface and on the sea floor, these microbes thrive under high pressure. They evolved a waxy cell layer which protects against crushing pressures and frigid temperatures.

**EXTREME ENVIRONMENTS**  These extremophiles can be found almost everywhere on Earth, but most barophiles are found on the ocean floor where pressures are 400 times greater than on Earth’s surface.

**EXTREME EXAMPLES**  The barophile *Halomonas salaria* requires a pressure 1000 times greater than Earth’s surface atmosphere just to stay alive!

Photo Credit: Black smoker at the bottom of the sea floor - MARUM, Bremen University, Germany (front); Barophile - Dr. Chiaki Kato, Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (back). For more information visit http://astrobiology.nasa.gov/