Student Comprehension Worksheet

Directions: Read the introduction of the online *Science News* article "[Three visions of the future, inspired by neuroscience's past and present]()," which presents three fantastical tales of where neuroscience might take us, based on the progress made by brain researchers in the last 100 years. Then, choose one vignette in the article to read and answer questions about. Make sure you also read the "Reality check" section related to your vignette. A version of the story, "Our brains, our futures," can be found in the March 13, 2021 issue of *Science News*. For more on the history and future of neuroscience, and to explore other big science advances over the last 100 years, visit *Science News*' Century of Science site at www.sciencenews.org/century

1. What was science's understanding of the brain like 100 years ago? What did scientists know about the brain, and what was a mystery?

2. When did neuroscience become an official STEM field? How has the field advanced in the decades since it was established? What obstacles remain?

3. How are scientists working to overcome those obstacles?

4. Why does the *Science News* article include fictional vignettes? What purpose do they serve?

5. What vignette did you choose? What technology does the vignette describe, and how is the technology used?

6. List some pros and cons of the technology described in the vignette.

7. How realistic is the vignette? What about the vignette is fact and what is fiction?

8. Describe some of the real scientific research and advancements that inspired the vignette.

9. What hurdles do scientists still need to overcome to reach their goals of advancing neuroscience?