**Student Worksheet: Unsung Heroes of Science**

**Choosing an Unsung Hero**

In this activity, you will select an “unsung” scientist to study before creating a commemorative artistic piece about the scientist in a medium of your choice. In order to select an “unsung” scientist, explore the *Science News* archive “[Unsung Characters](https://www.sciencenews.org/century/connection/unsung-characters)” and answer the following questions.

1. What does it mean to be an “unsung” scientist?

2. What circumstances could lead to a scientist becoming an “unsung” scientist?

3. What scientific subjects are included within this archive?

4. Navigate to the “Milestones” page at the bottom of the archive. Read through the timeline. What scientists and discoveries surprised you? Why?

5. Continue to explore the archive. Identify an individual that you would like to focus on for the remainder of this activity. If desired, you may extend your search beyond the archive, but if you do, be prepared to explain how your selected scientist is “unsung.”

**Meeting an Unsung Hero**

You may work with other students who are studying the same scientist as you for this section of the activity. However, you are still responsible for filling out and completing your own student worksheet. While researching your selected scientist, you may find that you are unable to fully answer some questions. Answer the questions to the best of your ability. As you answer the questions, make sure to use reputable and reliable resources, like [*Britannica*](https://www.britannica.com/) or the [*Smithsonian Institution*](https://www.si.edu/).

1. What lesser-known scientist are you focusing on for this activity? Explain in detail why you selected this scientist.

2. Where and when was this scientist born? If applicable, when and where did this scientist die?

3. What is the race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, and gender of this scientist?

4. What was this scientist’s upbringing like?

5. What were this scientist’s degrees and qualifications?

6. How did this scientist enter their field of study?

7. What were this scientist’s achievements or discoveries?

8. How did this scientist have a lasting impact on their field of study? How are they viewed today?

9. What else is notable about this scientist’s life?

10. What artistic medium will you use to represent this scientist? You may create written works, art works, or acted works. Make sure to specify the exact medium you will be using (for example: poetry, paintings, sculptures, or monologues, among others) and make sure that you are using a different medium than other students studying the same scientist. For example, two individuals studying the same scientist could create a drawn work and a painted work because they are using different mediums. Get creative!

**Celebrating an Unsung Hero**

Tell your teacher which scientist you selected and what medium you will be using to create an artistic commemoration for your selected scientist. Once your teacher has approved your selection, you may begin working on your final product.

As you create your artistic commemoration, be careful not to make assumptions about the scientist’s feelings or perspective (unless the scientist is quoted as having experienced these feelings or perspectives). Your commemoration should focus primarily on events that have occurred in the scientist’s life. All acted works, from songs to monologues, must be filmed so that they may be projected in a gallery of artistic commemorations.

You must also provide a description to accompany your final artistic piece. The header for this description must include your name, the year the piece was created, and a title. The description then must include a synopsis of the selected scientist’s life, including all notable accomplishments; must explain how you chose a medium to represent the scientist; and must explain how the commemorative piece represents the selected scientist and their achievements. All descriptions must be between 200 and 300 words.