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Date _____

Elements of Science Fiction

Written works that come from an author's imagination fall in the broad category called fiction. In **science fiction**, an author explores unexpected possibilities of the past or the future. The author combines knowledge of science and technology with a creative imagination to present a new world.

Read the following science fiction excerpt and answer the questions.

The Memory Collectors

In the year 2157, most people on Earth lived in dome-protected cities. The air outside had become too toxic to breathe without specialized masks, a result of centuries of pollution. But inside the domes, life continued with impressive technological advances.

Twelve-year-old Maya belonged to a special group called Memory Collectors. They wore neural bands that allowed them to extract and save other people's memories. These memories were stored in the Central Archive, a massive database that preserved human experiences for future generations.

"Today you'll collect from Mrs. Abernathy," Maya's supervisor told her, handing over a small silver device. "She's 103 years old and remembers the world before the domes."

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Maya entered the elderly woman's apartment, which was filled with objects from the past—real paper books and photographs of blue skies and green trees without protective barriers.

"I've been waiting for you," Mrs. Abernathy said. "I want to share what real rain felt like on skin, how birds sang in the morning, and the smell of flowers growing in open fields." As Maya activated her neural band, a hazy blue light connected the two of them. What she experienced changed her forever—sensations from a world that existed only in the Archive, a natural Earth that the dome-dwellers might one day restore if they remembered what had been lost.

1. Identify two elements that make this story science fiction.

2. What problem does this futuristic society face?

3. What advanced technology exists in this fictional world?

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Elements of Science Fiction-Answer Key

1. Identify two elements that make this story science fiction.

The story is set in a future world (year 2157) and features advanced technology that doesn't currently exist (neural bands that extract and save memories, dome-protected cities).

2. What problem does this futuristic society face?

This society faces environmental destruction—the air outside has become too toxic to breathe without specialized masks, forcing people to live in dome-protected cities, isolated from the natural world their ancestors knew.

3. What advanced technology exists in this fictional world?

The advanced technology includes neural bands that can extract and store people's memories, dome-protected cities that shield people from toxic air, and the Central Archive database that preserves human experiences.