

Exploring Nano & Society— Tell a Nano Story

What future can you imagine?



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Exploring Nano & Society—Tell a Nano Story

Try this!

1. Select a card to begin a story inspired by the picture.
2. Continue to add cards as you tell your story. You can use as many or as few cards as you need—but remember, every story has a beginning, middle, and end!
3. Something missing from your story? Draw your own technology, character, or place card!



Think about it...

1. Who is the main character of your story? What new technologies might they need in their adventure?
2. What do you think the future will look like if all these new technologies are developed?
3. How will a future society be the same or different compared to our current society?

What's going on?



Nobody knows what the future will bring, but most of us think about the future all the time. It's fun to imagine what our lives might be like in the future—and it's also important. We have the things we do today because in the past, people thought about the kind of world they wanted and invented technologies to help make their dreams real.

Science fiction storytelling is just one place people write down and capture their vision for what the future might look like.

“Trying to predict the future is a discouraging and hazardous occupation,” science fiction author Arthur C. Clarke said in 1964, and yet he got it remarkably right in his own predictions, including his 1968 vision for a tablet. He wasn't alone. Isaac Asimov, another famous author, predicted online education, Douglas Adams predicted e-books, and Ray Bradbury predicted that we would reach Mars (though, so far, we've only done so with robotic extensions of ourselves). What do you predict the future will look like? We can all think about the kind of world we want in the future and begin planning for it. Are there new technologies we'll need to develop and adopt? How might society change as these become more available and commonplace?

How is this nano?

Technologies and society influence each other. New technologies will open up new possibilities, shape our relationships, promote the values of those who build them, and through a variety of systems affect many different parts of our society and communities. Likewise, our own society will have a dramatic effect on what technologies are developed and adopted.

New nanomaterials will have a significant impact on our lives in the coming years, so it is very important that we engage in open conversations about what nanotechnology is, what is possible, and where we would like it to go.

