

What Is AI? (K-2)

What is artificial intelligence and what are its potential benefits and drawbacks?

Note: This lesson was modified by the SPS Digital Learning Team from the original CommonSense Education's lesson plan.

Learning Objective: I can learn what Artificial Intelligence is and talk about ways that it can be good and bad for people.

Lesson Time: ~15 minutes

Lesson Materials:

- [Video](#)
- PowerPoint (PDF)

Vocabulary:

- **artificial intelligence (AI)** – a computer program or app that can do tasks that typically require human intelligence

Lesson:

1. Show PowerPoint to your students.

Ask: *Have you ever heard about artificial intelligence, or AI? (Slide 4)*

Invite students to share their prior knowledge. If your students are already familiar with artificial intelligence, you can ask the follow-up questions on Slide 5.

2. **Say:** *We're going to watch a video that explains what AI is. And we'll talk about what AI can do and how it is trained (Slide 6).*
3. Show the *What Is AI?* video (Slide 7) and have students discuss what they learned about AI and how it works. Pause to discuss as needed.
4. **Say:** *In the video, they mentioned some of the cool things AI can do. Given what you know, do you think AI will be mostly good or bad for people? Pick the side that you agree with the most. Be sure to have at least one reason to support your opinion (Slide 10).*

Note: [This article](#) provides additional context for educators on the benefits and risks of generative AI.

5. Have students position themselves physically to show where they stand, forming a line along one wall. You can also have students share with a thumbs-up/down.

Then review slides 11–14, inviting students to share their perspectives and add to the reasons that are listed. As students listen to their classmates' perspectives, their own stance may shift. If students have physically located themselves on a line or in different corners of the room, invite them to shift their location to represent any changes in their thinking.

6. **Say:** *Balancing the good and bad parts of a new technology can be tricky. When it comes to AI, we must think very hard about how we use it.* (Slide 15).