

Be Internet Sharp – Think Before You Tap

Overall aims

This lesson plan highlights the age-appropriate activities within the Be Internet Sharp pillar.

You can find the activities within the Be Internet Sharp activity pack.

AI technology has become a significant part of the online experience, including smart devices, recommendation systems and predictive chat. For children, and for many adults, it can be hard to understand what AI is, and what it isn't. Learning to recognise the possibilities of AI while learning not to 'humanise' or become over-reliant on it are important skills for children to learn.

Objectives

Pupils will learn

- ✓ **What** AI is and what it isn't, and how it works.
- ✓ **Ways** AI is used to benefit the wider world and their own lives.

Outcomes

Pupils can

- ✓ **Understand** AI and why it is not like human intelligence.
- ✓ **Recognise** where AI is and how it is used positively.
- ✓ **Know** how to use AI responsibly and find a healthy balance.

Reminder

Please make sure you read the teacher guide to pupil safety before you start any of the activities in this booklet.

Assessment opportunities

- Assessing pupils' pre-existing knowledge in an introductory activity.
- Think, pair and share with peers.
- Class discussion and teacher circulation during activities.

Timing

This plan is designed for a 45-50 minute lesson, with approximate timings given to allow you to select activities you feel appropriate to meet the needs of your pupils.

Plenary

Pupils reflect on what could happen if someone relies too much on AI. And they ask: how do you find a good balance?

Baseline activity



Understanding AI (10 mins)

Using your vocabulary sheet, test the pupils' understanding of AI.

Ask the class what they think 'AI' stands for.

Then ask if they can explain what 'artificial' and 'intelligence' stand for.

Then ask them to define what artificial intelligence is. Define artificial intelligence on the board.

Ask: how might AI be different to human intelligence?

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Activity guide



Be Internet Sharp – Activity 7: What is AI? What isn't AI? (10 mins)

60-second challenge! Is it AI?

Think, Pair, Share: Distribute the Activity 7 handout or display the items on the board. Instruct pupils to pair up and evaluate the eight technological items listed. Have pupils use their handouts to decide if each item is “AI” or “Not AI”.

Explain your decision

Direct pupils to complete the justification sentences at the bottom of their handouts, picking one item from each category to explain their reasoning.

Discussion guidance: Lead a whole-class review of the answers. Contrast a regular appliance (like a light switch that executes a basic mechanical instruction) with adaptive software (like a smart speaker that answers questions) to solidify the concept that AI uses data inputs to predict or create.

Guiding questions:

- What is the biggest difference between a regular machine and AI?
- Why is it helpful to know if something uses AI?

Be Internet Sharp – Activity 8a: Using AI positively (15 mins)

AI as a global helper

Introduce the concept of AI as a positive real-world helper. Walk through the four global examples in the activity pack (TV captions, disaster relief, theme parks, conservation).

Pivot to familiar examples of AI helper tools found in modern schools or home learning environments.

Direct the pupils to spend a few minutes completing the matching activity on the Activity 8a handout, deciding which AI tool could help each person.

Let's talk – reviewing the scenarios

Review the handout matches as a class, then analyse each scenario. Guide the pupils to visually isolate the human action (creativity, intent, final execution) from the AI's contribution (finding information, predicting words).

Summarise the activity: reinforce that AI lacks real-world common sense, cannot experience emotions, and cannot replicate genuine human creativity. Humans must always make the final smart, kind choices.

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Plenary

(10 mins)

Using Be Internet Sharp Activity 9 for examples, lead the class for a reflective discussion on screen habits and over-reliance on AI.

Prompt pupils to consider how their learning, physical health, and friendships would change if they relied too much on AI for creativity, play and friendships.

Finish by agreeing a class 'golden rule' for using AI in a healthy, balanced way (see Activity 9).

Lesson materials

Be Internet Sharp Activity 7: handout.

Be Internet Sharp Activity 8a: handout.

Be Internet Sharp Activity 9: examples.