AI Glossary
and Discussion Starters

GENERAL QUESTIONS FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

- Where have you seen AI before (in games, apps, or videos)?
- Who teaches AI what to know?
- What could happen if an AI only learned from a few people's ideas?
- How could we make sure AI learns from lots of different kinds of people?
- What kinds of jobs or tasks should only people do?
- How can we use AI to help others?
- How can we tell when something made by AI might not be real or true?
- What's one way you'd teach AI about your own community?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

A computer program that can do tasks that usually need human thinking, like learning, talking, or solving problems.

What kinds of things can people do that computers can't yet do?

How might AI change the way people work or learn in the future?

MACHINE LEARNING

A way for computers to learn from examples instead of being told every step.

What examples would help a computer learn to recognize your favorite animal?

How does the data AI sees affect what it learns?

GENERATIVE AI

AI that can make new things like pictures, music, or stories, based on what it has learned before.

How can you tell if something was made by a person or by AI?

What are the ways AI-generated content can be helpful or tricky?

GPT
Generative Pre-trained Transformer

A special kind of AI that understands and writes with words, like having a super-smart chatbot pen pal.

What kinds of questions would you ask an AI that writes or answers like a person?

How could GPT help people, and what should you double check when using it?

DATASET

A big collection of information—like pictures, sounds, or words—that an AI studies to learn patterns.

If you were teaching AI about animals, what pictures would you show it?

What happens if the AI's dataset doesn't include people or places from your community?

ALGORITHM

A set of steps a computer follows to solve a problem or make a choice, like a recipe or set of directions.

Can you name a time you followed steps to get something done?

How do algorithms affect what decisions AI makes?

TRAINING DATA

The examples used to teach an AI how to do something, such as identifying objects or finishing sentences.

If you were training an AI to draw, what kinds of art would you show it?

Why is it important that training data is accurate and complete?

MODEL

The result of an AI's learning process—the "brain" it builds after studying lots of examples.

How do people build knowledge over time, like AI builds its model?

How does an AI model reflect the data it learned from?

CHATBOT

A program that talks with people using text or voice to answer questions or have a conversation.

How can you tell when you're talking to a person or a chatbot?

What is it helpful or tricky to talk with a chatbot?

PROMPT

The question or direction you give to AI to tell it what you want it to do.

What happens when you ask the same question in different ways?

How can wording a prompt differently change AI's response?

RESPONSIBLE USE

Making smart, kind, and careful choices about how we use AI tools.

How can we use AI to help others instead of harm them?

How can responsible use of AI affect your school, community, or daily life?

RECOMMENDATION SYSTEM

A type of AI that suggests videos, songs, or products based on what you liked before.

How does your favorite app know what you might want to watch or play next?

How can recommendation systems help or mislead people?

NEURAL NETWORK

A kind of computer system inspired by how the human brain works, with "layers" that help it learn patterns.

How does your brain learn something new—by seeing it once or practicing many times?

Why might some tasks be easier for a neural network to learn than others?

DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

The record of what you do online, which can shape how AI and websites personalize your experience.

What parts of your digital footprint do you want to keep private?

How does your digital footprint shape the content or recommendations AI shows you?

PATTERNS THAT AREN'T FAIR

When an AI makes guesses that work better for some people than others because it didn't learn from everyone equally.

What would you do to help AI learn fairly from everyone?

How can you verify whether AI is being fair or not in its results?

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CLASSROOM CONVERSATION NORMS

When discussing AI in the classroom, students aren't only learning about technology, they are also exploring ethics, creativity, and fairness. Below are some suggested classroom conversation norms around using and discussing AI in the classroom.

1. **Be curious, not afraid**
   - Ask questions about how AI works and why.
   - It is okay not to know- AI is new for everyone!
2. **Listen to understand**
   - When someone shares and idea or experience, listen carefully before responding.
   - AI affects people in different ways- everyone's perspective matters.
3. **Check for facts**
   - Remember that AI can make mistakes or create things that aren't true.
   - Always double-check information using trusted sources or class discussions.
4. **Think about Fairness**
   - Ask who is included- and who might be left out of the data.
   - Encourage empathy and fairness when talking about people, cultures, and communities.