

Lesson 2: Understanding AI – No Fear, Just Clarity

Student Learning Goals

- Understand what AI is *and isn't*
- Spot AI hallucinations and failure modes quickly and accurately.
- Learn critical AI habits: verify, compare, adapt
- Audit AI's assumptions, not just its answers

Mini-Project: “3 Questions Google Can’t Answer Right”

- Choose 3 unusual or nuanced questions and test AI tools (ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini).
- Compare answers: Are they accurate, biased, or completely fabricated?
- Summarize your findings (1 paragraph each): What was wrong, and how did you know?

Gotcha to Watch:

Looking right is not the same as being right. Students must learn to gut-check polished but incorrect answers.

Word Block: Key Concepts and Definitions

Term	Definition	Example
AI Model	A system trained on massive data that predicts text. Fast, useful, not conscious.	ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini are different models with different strengths and limitations.
Hallucination	When AI generates false but confident-sounding information. AI lies with confidence.	Claiming a non-existent book or making up a citation and link.
Failure Mode	A type of error or blind spot in an AI system. Classic fail: AI miscounts objects.	Repeating bias, contradicting itself, or failing in specific domains like logic puzzles.
Compare	Checking multiple answers from different sources or models.	Ask all 3 models to give 1880s records on logging

		in Michigan — then see what differs and why.
Verify	Looking for external sources to confirm or reject an AI output.	Cross-check AI’s claim about a historic event with real books or journal archives.
Audit	Manually inspecting the AI’s logic, references, or assumptions.	If the answer seems off, ask “How do you know that?” or “Where did this info come from?”

Parent/Teacher Companion Guide

What is this about

This lesson builds digital instincts. It helps students see AI not as truth, but as a tool, powerful, fast, and fallible.

Your role

Let students fail in small ways, that’s how intuition forms.

Reinforce the habit of questioning AI’s confidence.

Show how to look up independent sources and spot contradictions.

Talk prompt

“When have you seen a confident answer turn out wrong — online or in life?”

Ask your student what surprised them in their search, and why they caught it.