Using AI to Generate Effective, Fun, and Interactive Classroom Activities

Nov. 20, 2025

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OTAN SME

Noncredit ESL faculty

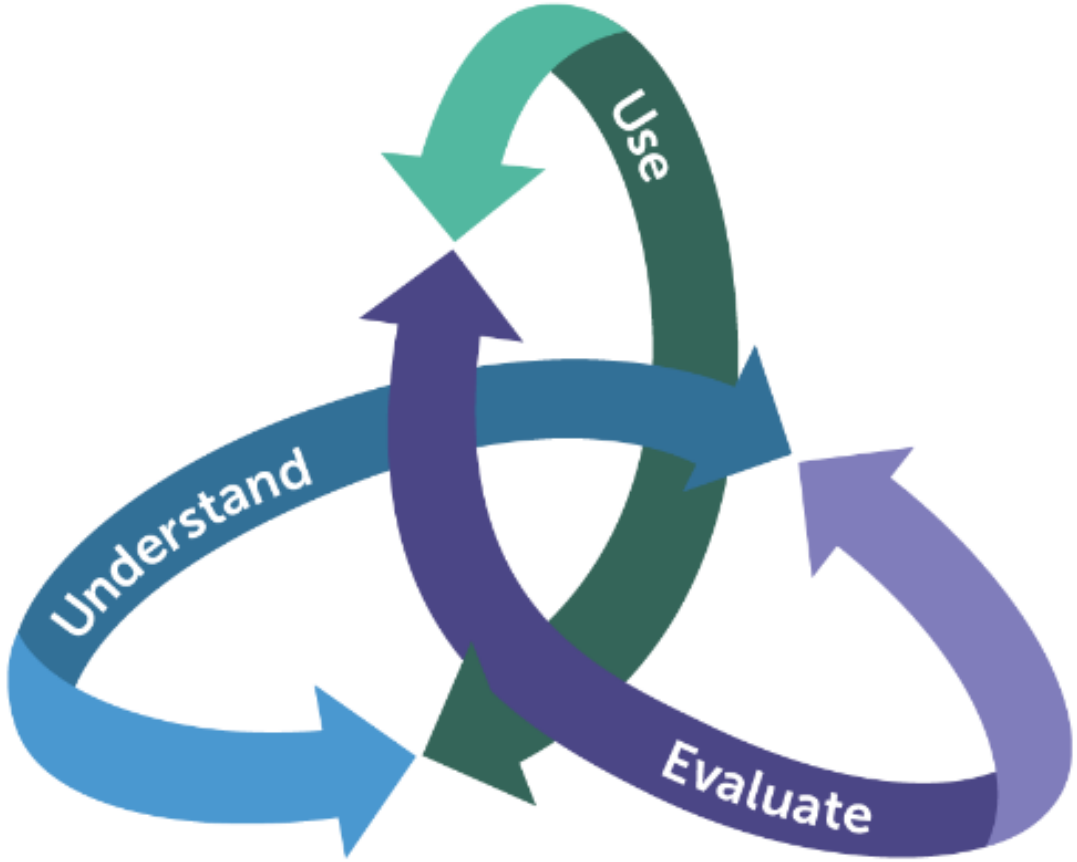
MiraCosta College

Agenda and Objectives:
By the end of this session, you will have…

practiced hands-on some of the countless Generative AI tools for a variety of instructional purposes in adult education

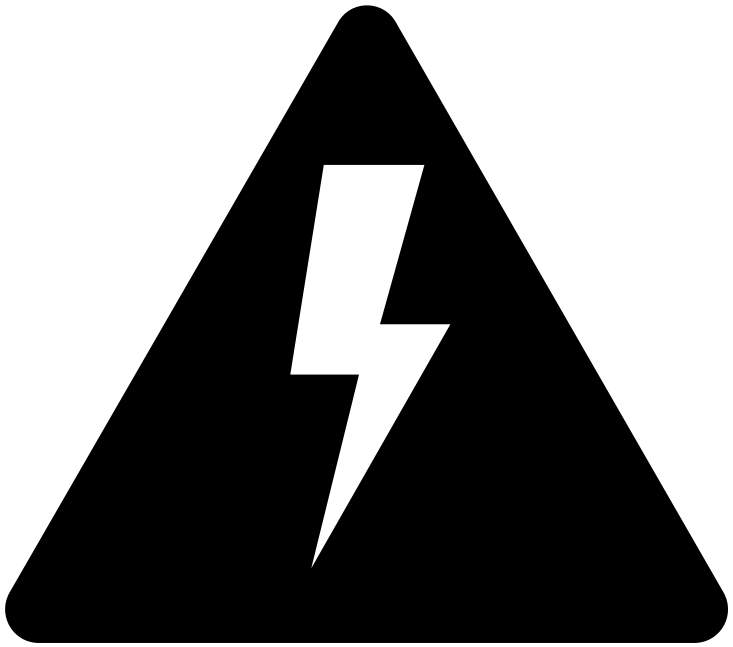
gained insights into the potential of AI for creating customized class materials, engaging students and developing a bit of AI literacy, and enhancing instruction

Digital Promise: AI Literacy Framework



AI Literacy Framework

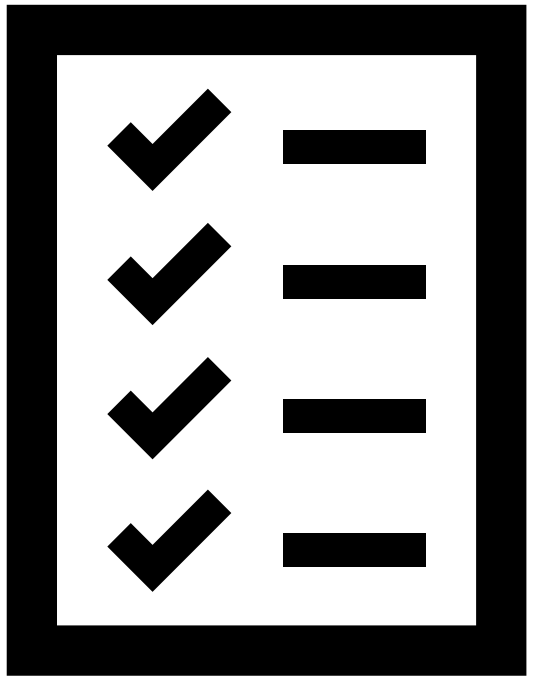
Digital Promise



Disclaimers

Negatives of AI:

- Ethical and social concerns: Bias and discrimination, misinformation and manipulation, data privacy, access and equity, plagiarism/copyright, etc.
- Security and economic risks
- Other risks: Environmental impact, dependence, existential risk



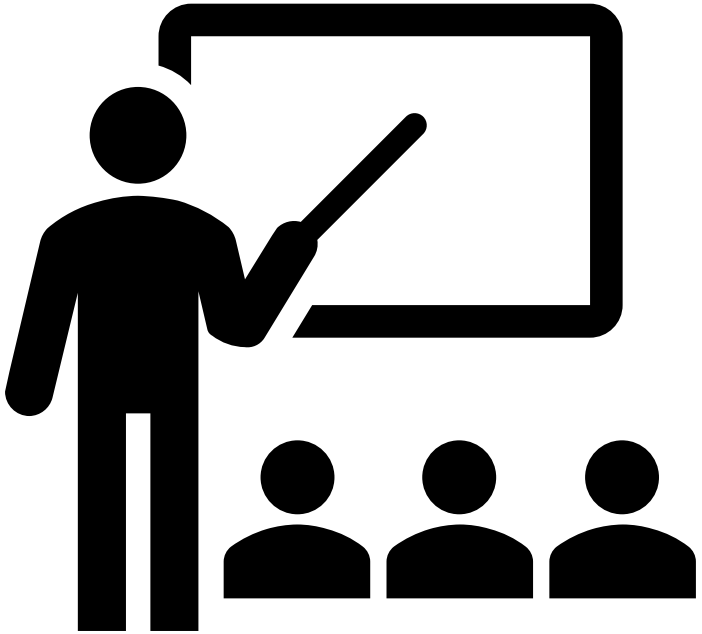
We Will Cover

General Use GenAI and Ed-Tech Specific Tech Tools:

- Image generators
- Padlet
- Wayground (formerly Quizizz)
- Diffit
- Google NotebookLM

Why Use Images in Teaching?

- Activate background knowledge / diagnose gaps
- Spark interest
- Aid comprehension
- Simplify complex concepts
- Bridge language barriers
- Memory / retention



Class Materials: Get “Just Right” Images

Choosing a Warning Label for Human DNA

By Charles Wohlforth 2006

Charles Wohlforth is an author and lifelong resident of Alaska who writes about science, technology, and travel. In this piece, Wohlforth creatively explores the relationship between humankind and the ecosystem of planet Earth. As you read, take notes on how the author's use of metaphor and diction informs his point of view.

Image created with Dall E

Other planets orbit different stars, and some people believe that if Earth becomes uninhabitable, we can send our species to these planets. The idea is to send seeds or frozen embryos into space, hoping that an extraterrestrial host will help reconstitute humanity.

However, if we're considering this option, we should be aware of the kind of guests we would be on that new world. Humans have a history of damaging their own environment, so we might not be welcomed with open arms. A warning label on the space capsule might read, "Contents: Humanity. Use extreme caution. Highly invasive. Spreads rapidly. Wastes resources. Dangerous to all other species."

Image Prompting: Let's Practice

Google's Say What You See

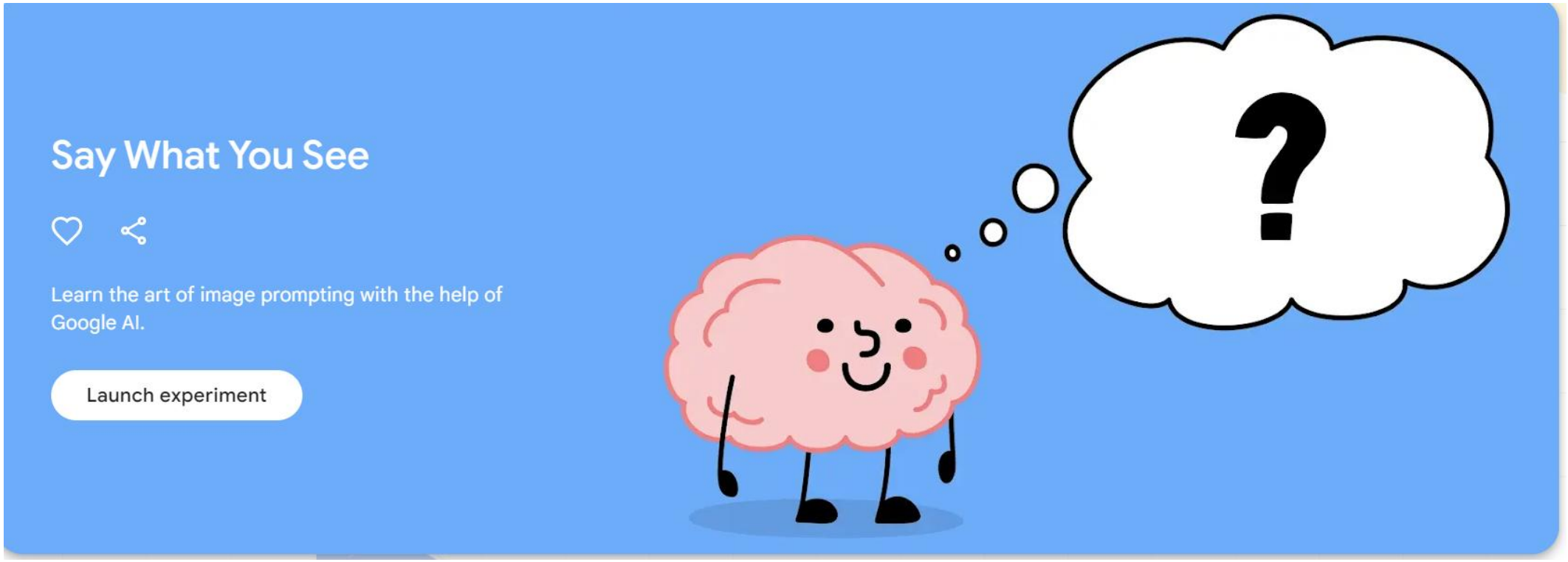


Image Generation: You Try It!

Create an image for a difficult vocabulary word or term or an idiom or phrasal verb or some concept or term for your class

Google Gemini

ChatGPT

Student Image Generation

My superhero is called SUPERMA. She is a hardworking mom who has the superpower of healing other moms with emotional needs.

Many Other Image Generators

- Adobe Firefly (if you have Adobe subscription)
- Microsoft Copilot
- Leonardo
- Craiyon
- Ideogram

Learn More About Image Prompting

- Getting started with prompts for image-based Generative AI tools (Harvard)
- Two articles from Mashable about uploading your images for AI manipulation can be applied across most AI tools:
  - 9 fun ChatGPT image prompts that you can try right now
  - 6 Google Gemini photo prompts to try

Padlet: Delivery of Content and Student Collaboration

Padlet: walls for sharing content, student collaboration

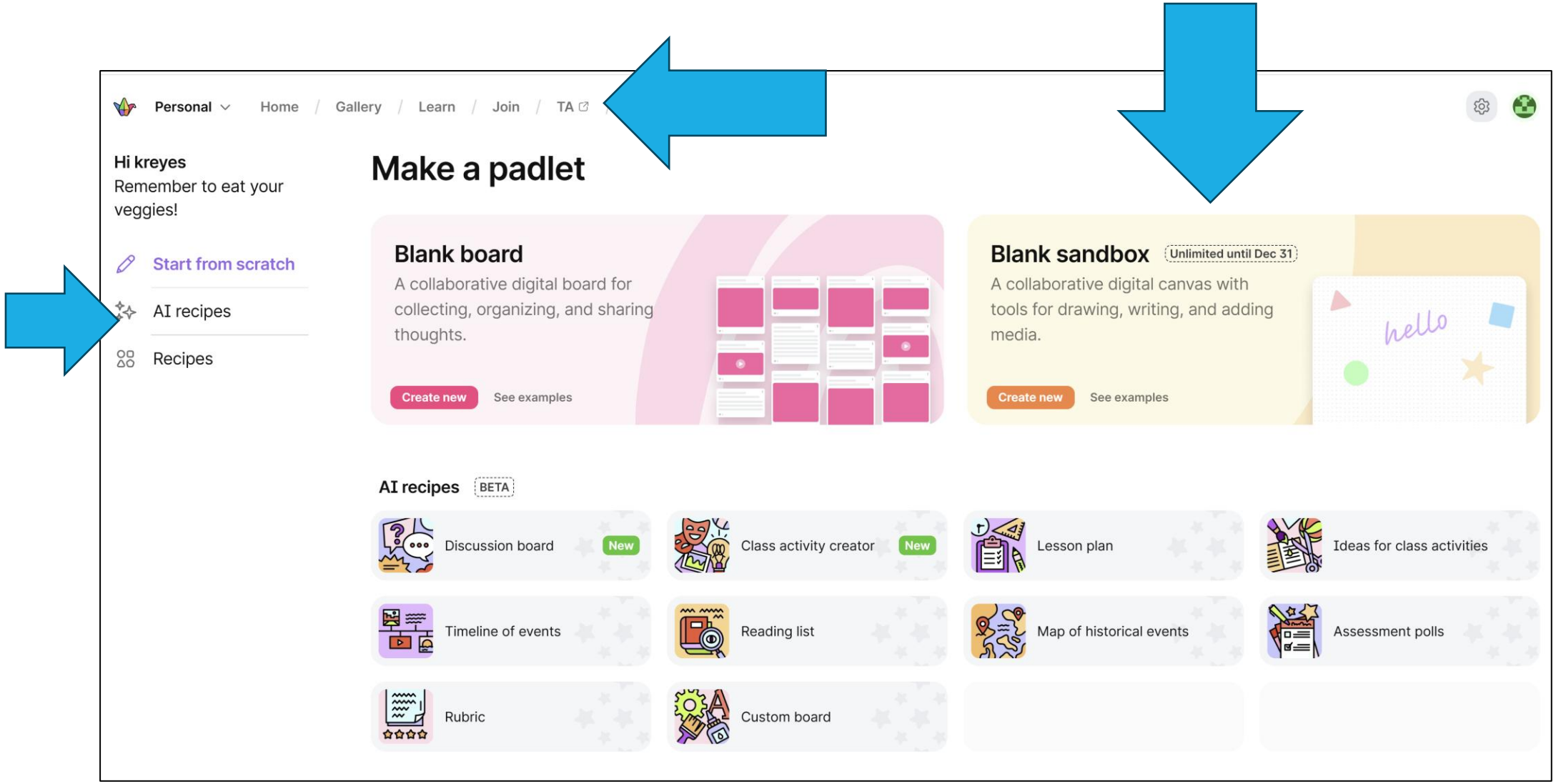
Types of activities: icebreakers, discussions, brainstorming, polls, exit tickets, rubrics, map of historical events, surveys, resource board, concept maps, KWL chart, *etc., etc., etc.;* for break-outs / group work and audio, see Russell Stannard video

What you get for free: 3 walls (see subscriptions)

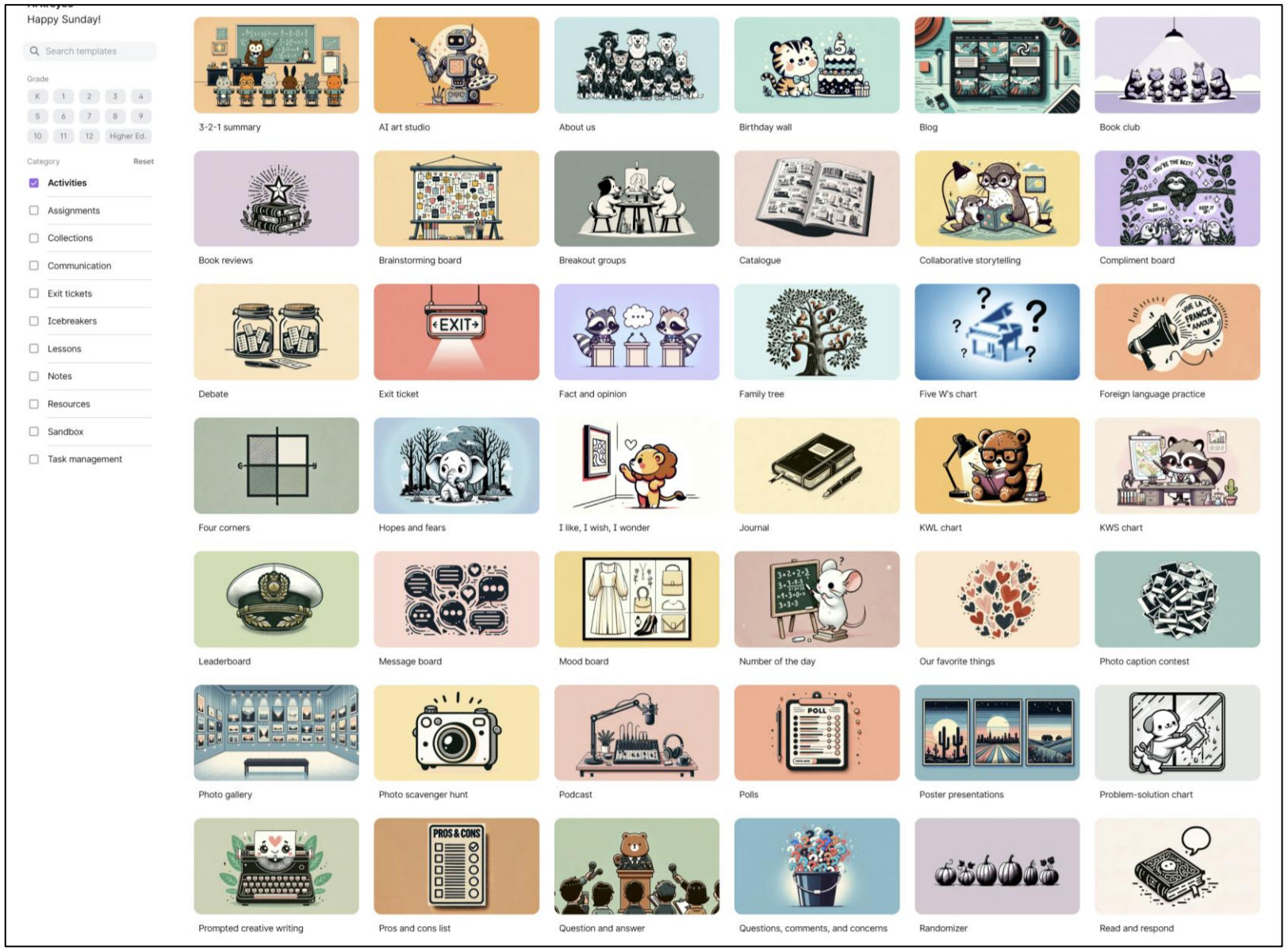
How-to: Magic Padlet, Padlet Learn page, Padlet Tutorials on YT channel

NOTES: mobile-device friendly (students do not need to register - just double-click/double-tap to contribute), can easily be embedded in a Canvas page

Padlet


Personal
Home
Gallery
Learn
Join
TA
Hi kreyes
Remember to eat your veggies!
Start from scratch
AI recipes
Recipes
Make a padlet
Blank board
A collaborative digital board for collecting, organizing, and sharing thoughts.
Create new
See examples
Blank sandbox
Unlimited until Dec 31
A collaborative digital canvas with tools for drawing, writing, and adding media.
hello
Create new
See examples
AI recipes
BETA
Discussion board
New
Class activity creator
New
Lesson plan
Ideas for class activities
Timeline of events
Reading list
Map of historical events
Assessment polls
Rubric
Custom board

AI Recipes


Happy Sunday!
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10 11 12 Higher Ed.
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Activities
Assignments
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Communication
Exit tickets
Icebreakers
Lessons
Notes
Resources
Sandbox
Task management
3-2-1 summary
AI art studio
About us
Birthday wall
Blog
Book club
Book reviews
Brainstorming board
Breakout groups
Catalogue
Collaborative storytelling
Compliment board
Debate
Exit ticket
Fact and opinion
Family tree
Five W's chart
Foreign language practice
Four corners
Hopes and fears
I like, I wish, I wonder
Journal
KWL chart
KWS chart
Leaderboard
Message board
Mood board
Number of the day
Our favorite things
Photo caption contest
Photo gallery
Photo scavenger hunt
Podcast
Polls
Poster presentations
Problem-solution chart
Prompted creative writing
Pros and cons list
Question and answer
Questions, comments, and concerns
Randomizer
Read and respond

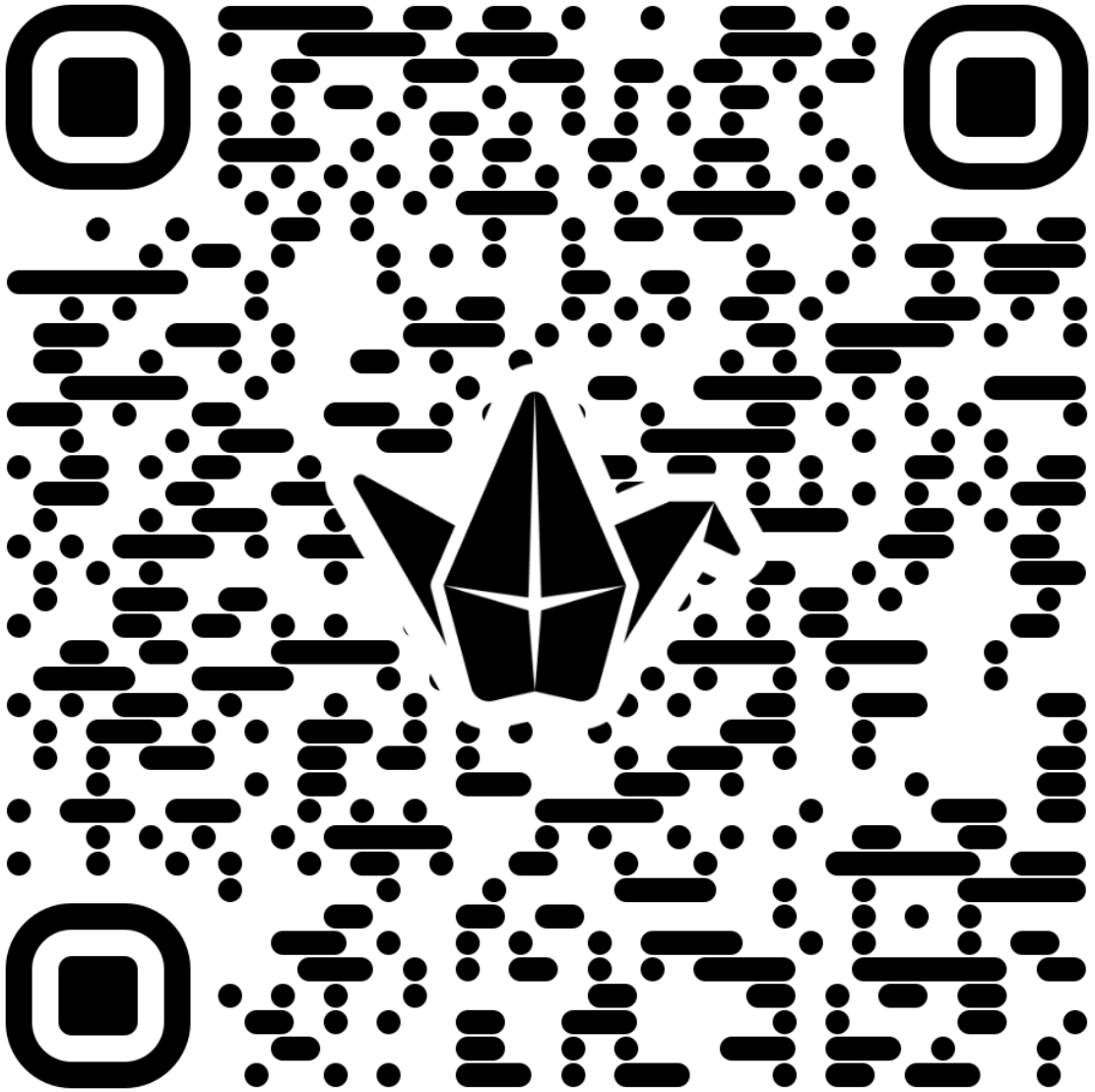
Try Padlet

I can’t draw wall

Try Padlet (1)

Describe/prompt AI image
Teacher descriptions

-wall made with Art Studio template



Try Padlet (2)

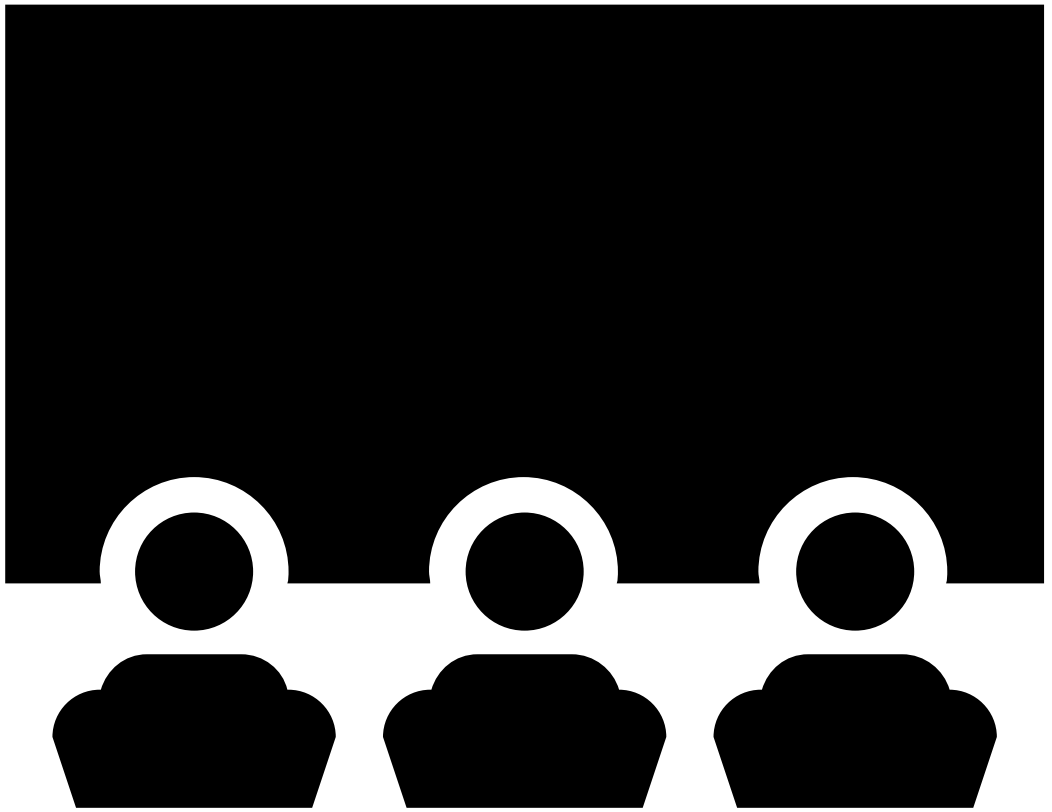
Two truths and a lie

Post two truths and a lie; then take the poll about others who post

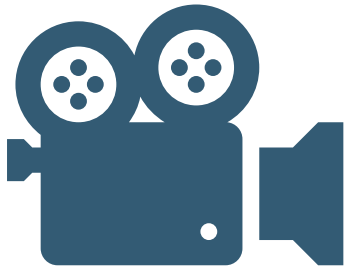
Demo

Custom Board

- Good for differentiation, extra support
- Sharing resources
- Keep students practicing during school breaks



Padlet: Other Features

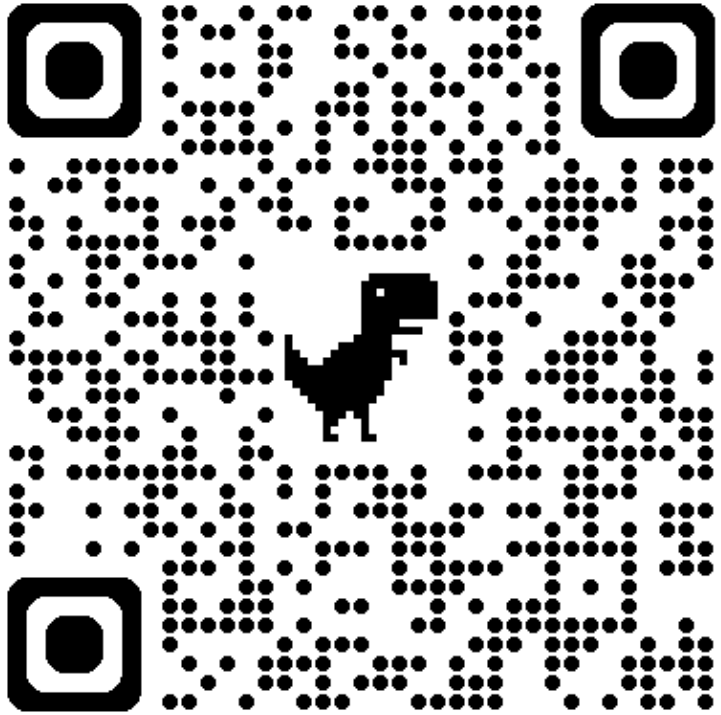


✅ Videos

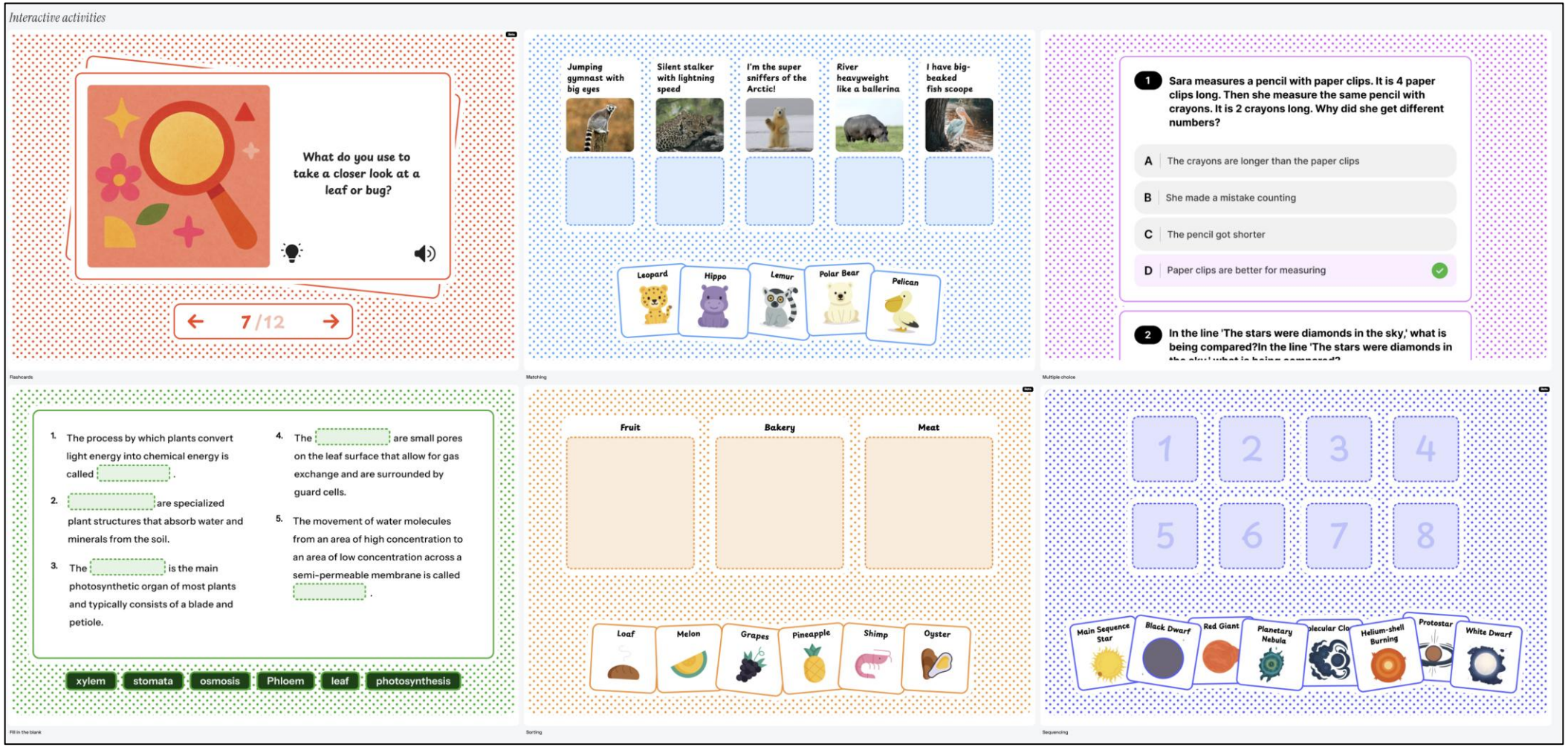
✅ Text to Speech

Your Turn: Create a Padlet AI Recipe

1. Make an account at padlet.com (or log in)
2. Select +Make
3. Select “AI Recipes”
4. Choose “View All” to see all the possibilities – suggestion: try “Custom Board”
5. Select one and follow tutorial/instruction panel on right



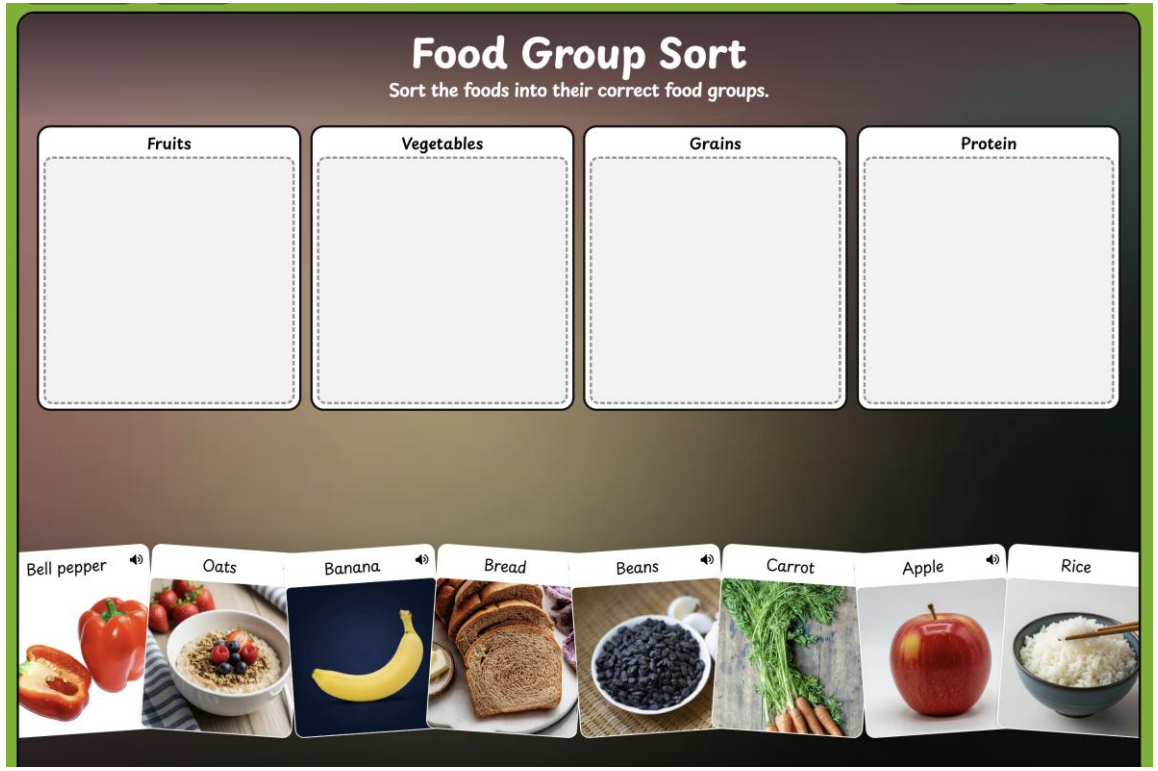
TA Interactives: Flashcards, Matching, Multiple Choice, Drag-n-Drop, Sorting, Sequencing



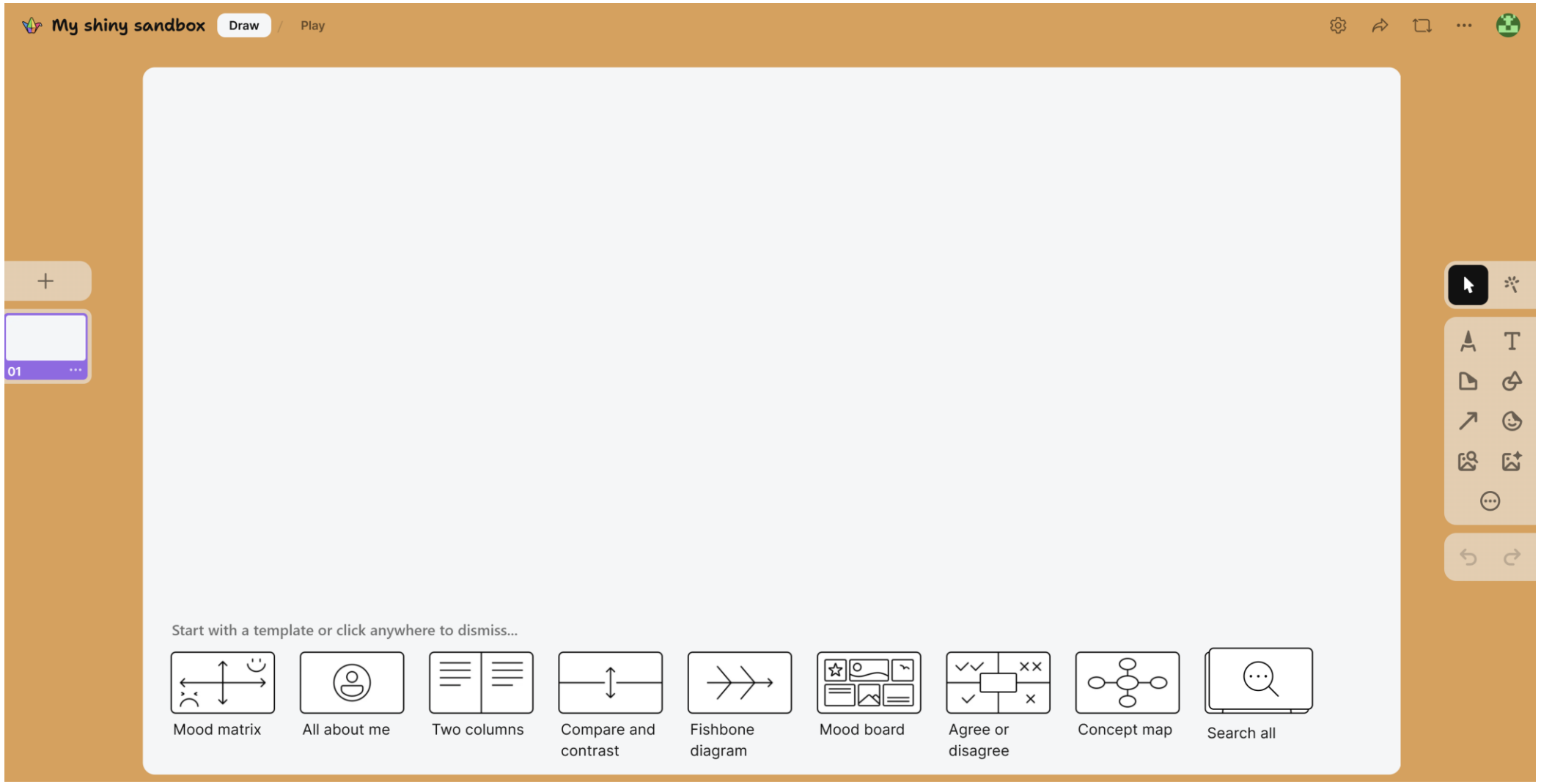
Padlet TA Example: Sorting

Enter grade, topic (food groups), instructions (include audio and images)

- Interactive



Padlet Sandbox with AI Image Generation



Diffit: Reading Passages and More

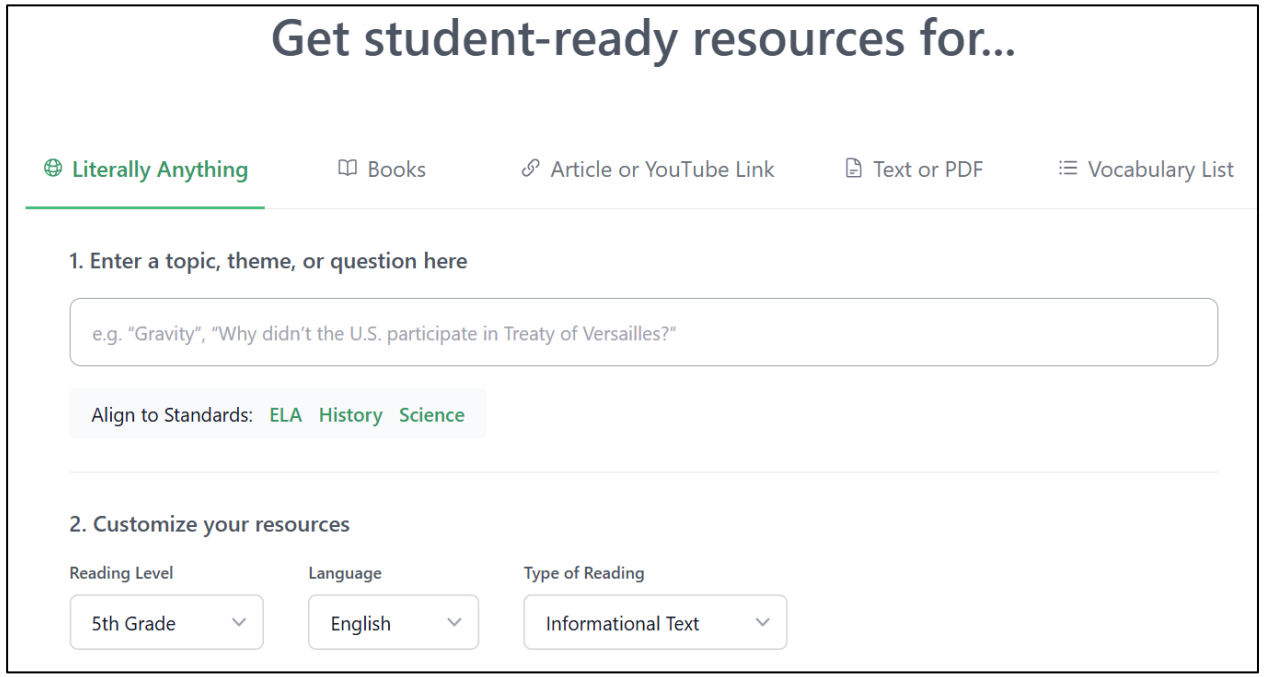
What it is: Reading passage generator with questions. Use existing curriculum or generate content from scratch with real, cited sources. Choose a grade level and language.

What it does: Creates a complete, differentiated resource that can be re-leveled, with questions.

What you get for free: view all features with 60-day free trial, just a few limitations with free subscription)

How-to: Diffit for Teachers YT Channel

Diffit

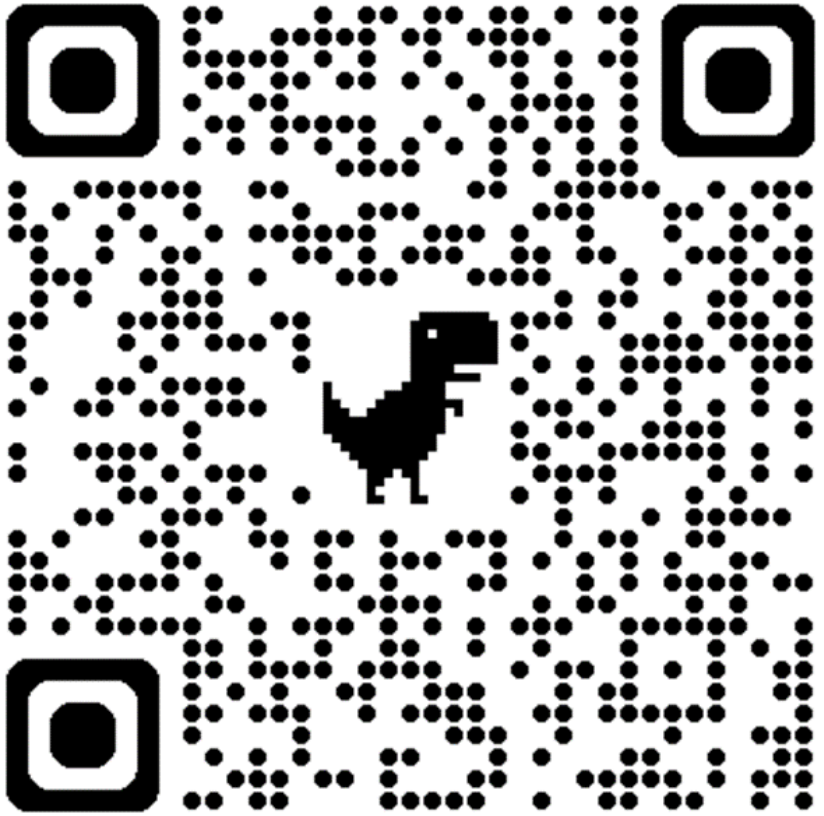


Get student resources:

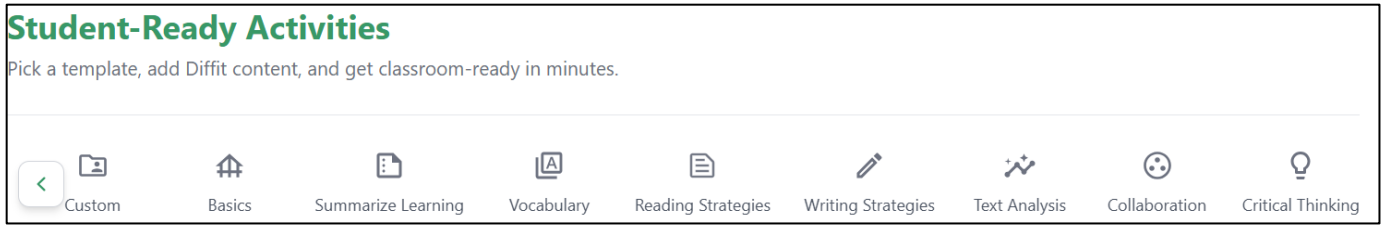
- Enter a topic, theme, or question
- Select a book or chapters
- Paste a link to an article, PDF, or YouTube video or upload a file
- Enter a vocabulary list
- Align to standards
- Select reading level and language

Diffit: You Try It

1. Make an account at web.diffit.me
2. Enter a theme, topic, or question to get a te YouTube video link
3. Choose a level
4. Select “Generate Resources”
5. Modify any section and/ or add more activit
6. Print or download PDF (free), export (paid)



More with Diffit



Graphic Organizers: The 5 W's, First Then Finally, Cause and Effects, and others pre-filled with any content

- Find a graphic organizer in the Activity Library.
- Choose your content and set the reading level.
- Get a ready-to-use graphic organizer.

Many ready-made activities to print and go:

- Reading strategies
- Student collaboration
- Claims and supporting evidence

Gamification with Wayground (formerly Quizizz)

What it is: games to play live or assign for homework

What it can be used to teach: almost anything

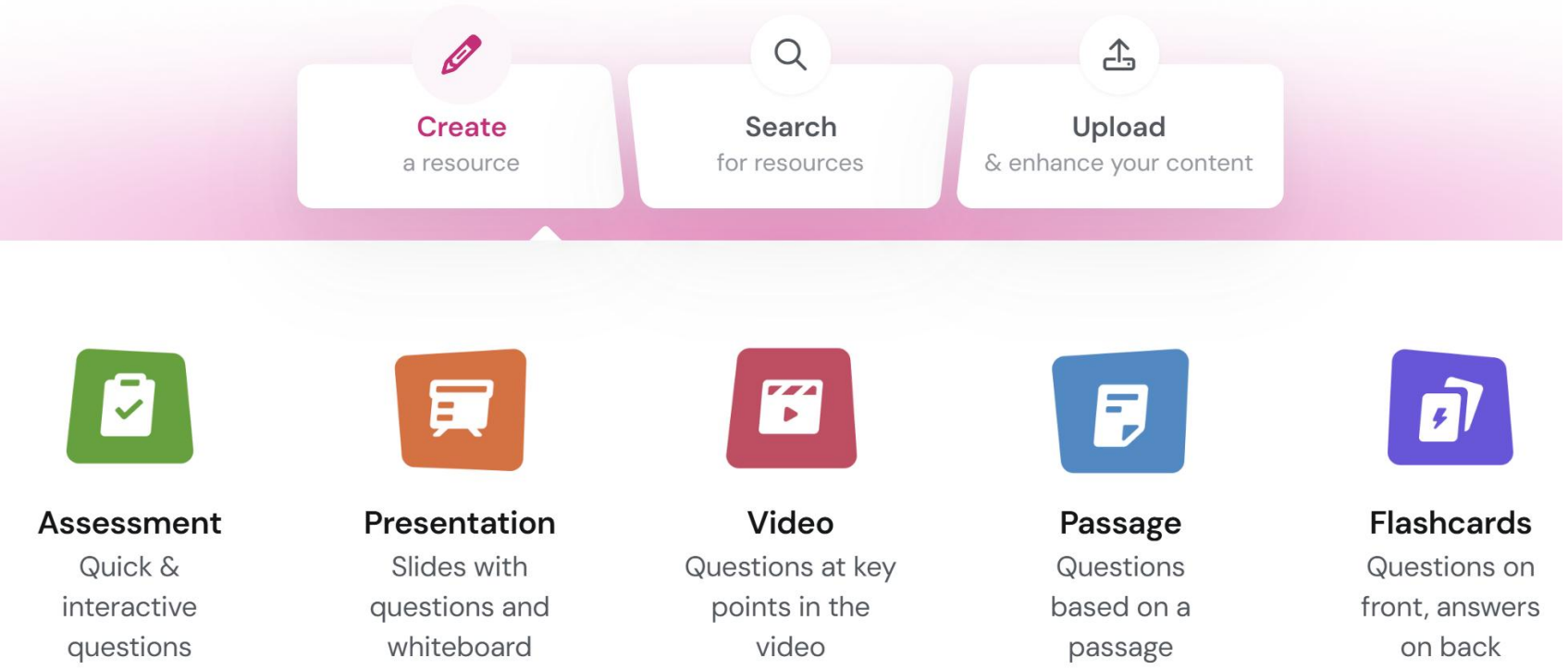
Types of activities/questions: many (see Wayground AI Toolkit)

What you get for free: 20 total free quizzes, lessons, flahcards, etc. (can archive those you are not using if you get close to your limit)

- Students join by URL, passcode, or QR code

How-to: Wayground Support

Formative Assessment or Homework

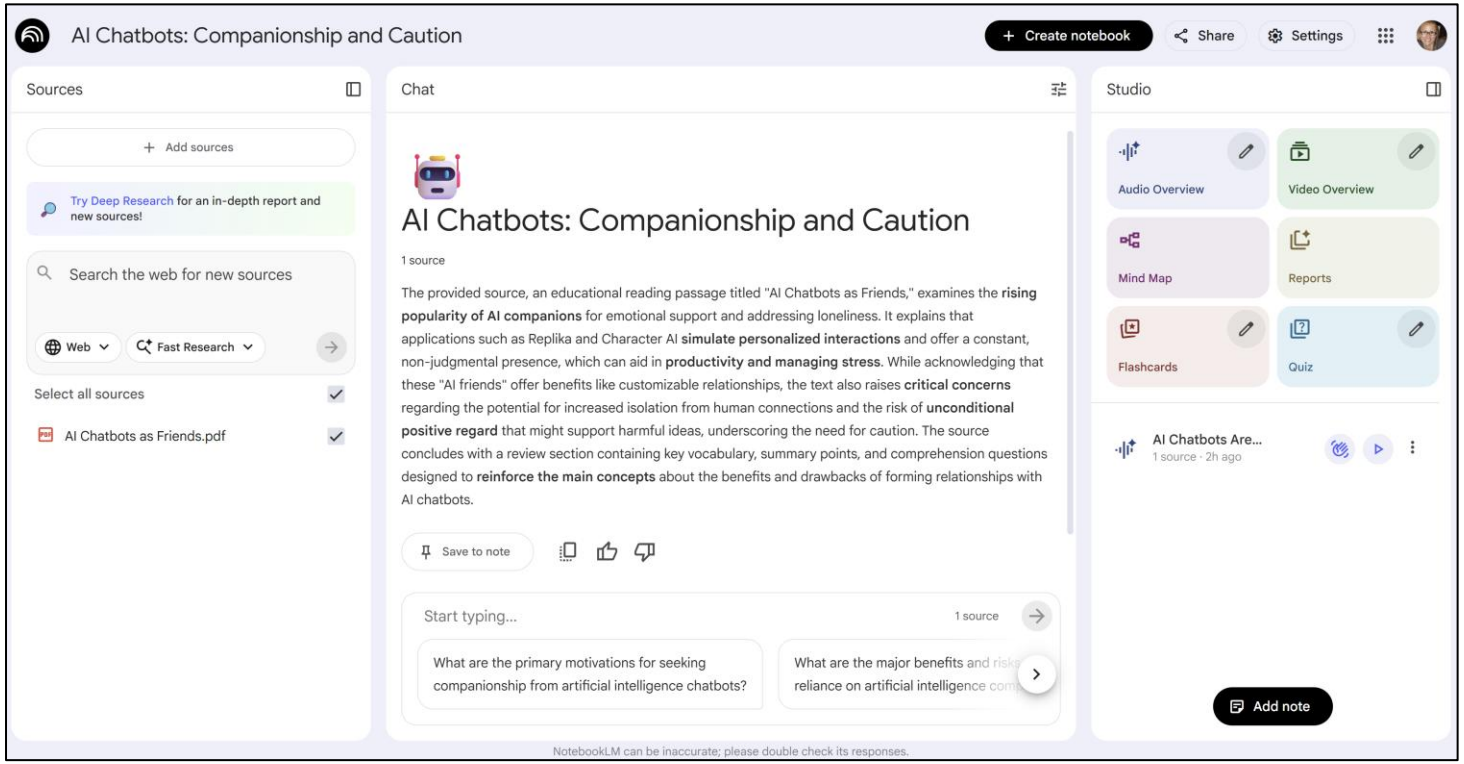


Waground: Your Turn!

1. Make an account at wayground.com
2. Select what you want to create
3. Follow the prompts (depending on activity type)

Google NotebookLM

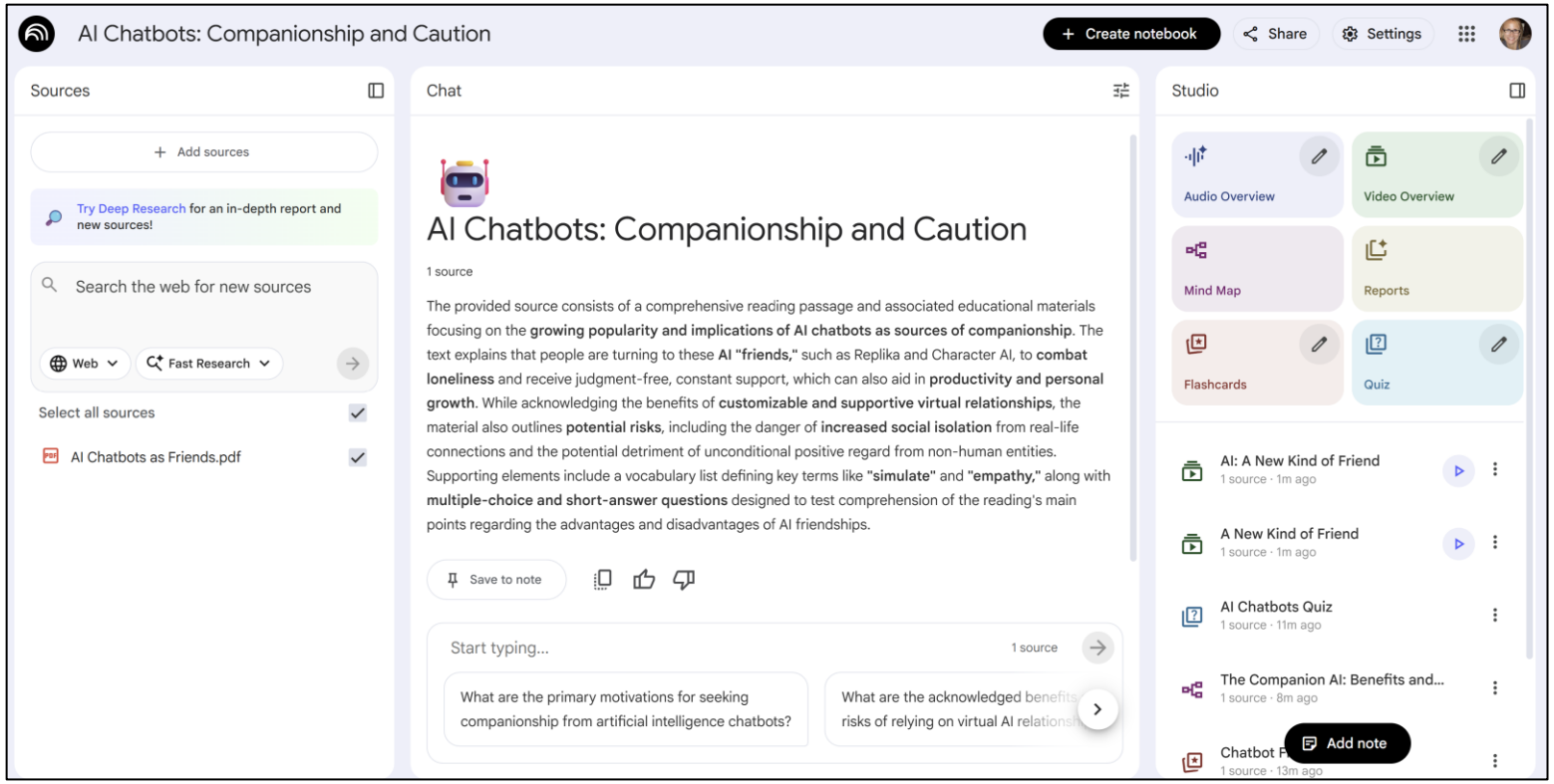
- Works with user-provided data (documents, reports, spreadsheets, multimedia, and more)
- From each “notebook,” user can chat with content
- Generate a podcast, video overview, and interactive mindmap, flashcards, quiz



Sample Notebook

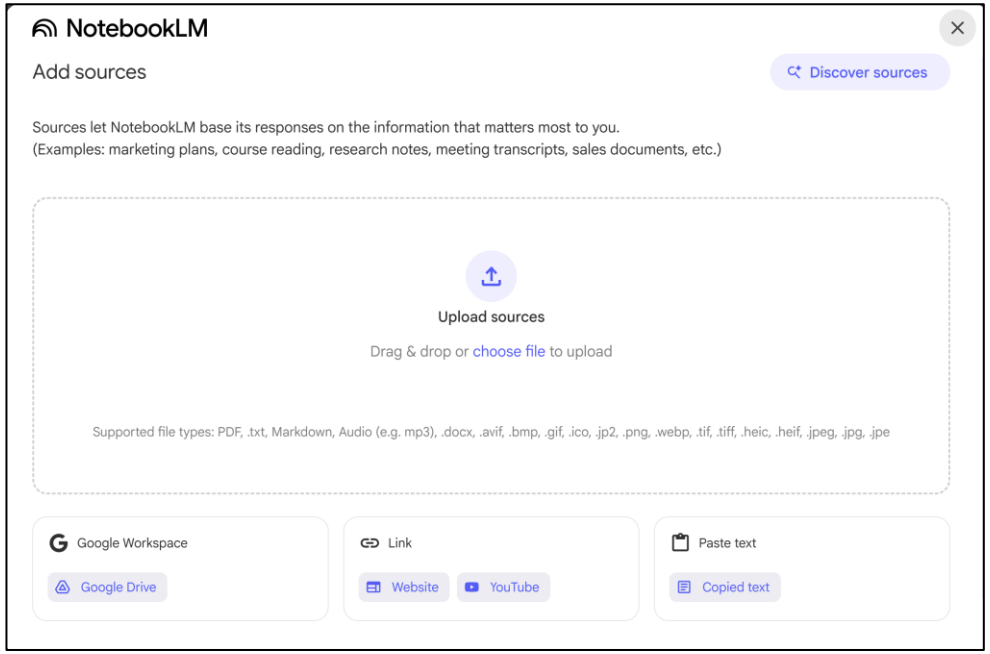
“Will AI Replace You at Your Job?” (made with Diffit)

Sign in with Gmail



How-to: NotebookLM

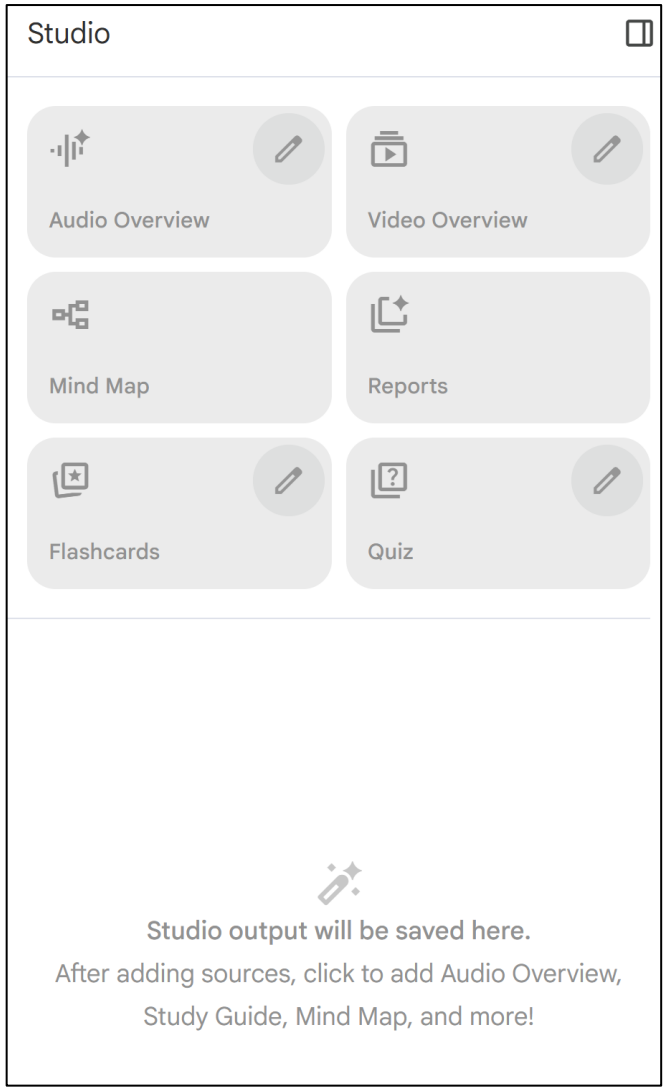
1. Log in at notebooklm.google.com/ (with Gmail)
2. Drag and drop, upload, paste text, or copy in a link. Supported file types: PDF, .txt, Markdown, Audio (e.g. mp3), .docx, .avif, .bmp, .gif, .ico, .jp2, .png, .webp, .tif, .tiff, .heic, .heif, .jpeg, .jpg, .jpe



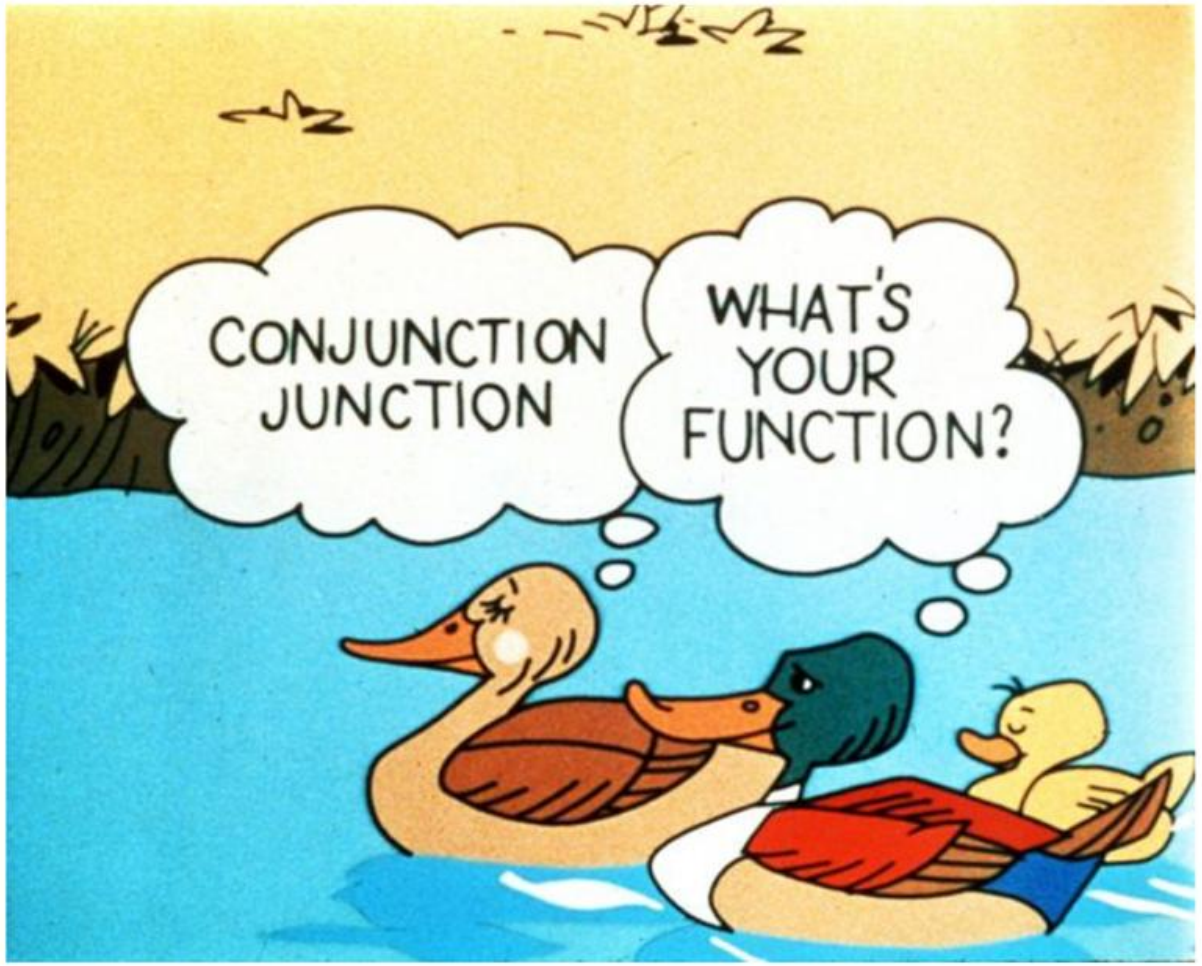
Next

3. Select activity types to be generated in Studio panel at right.
4. Select share to get URL. (Students will need to sign in with Gmail).

Important Note: If your school uses Google for email, and you use this account to sign up and make a Notebook, sharing will be only with those in your institution, and your school needs to have allowed permissions in its Google Suite. If students aren't part of the school's Google Suite, it's better to use a personal Gmail account to sing up and share Notebooks.



Music Generators



(ABC Photo Archives/Disney General Entertainment Content/Getty)

Create a Short Song as a Mnemonic

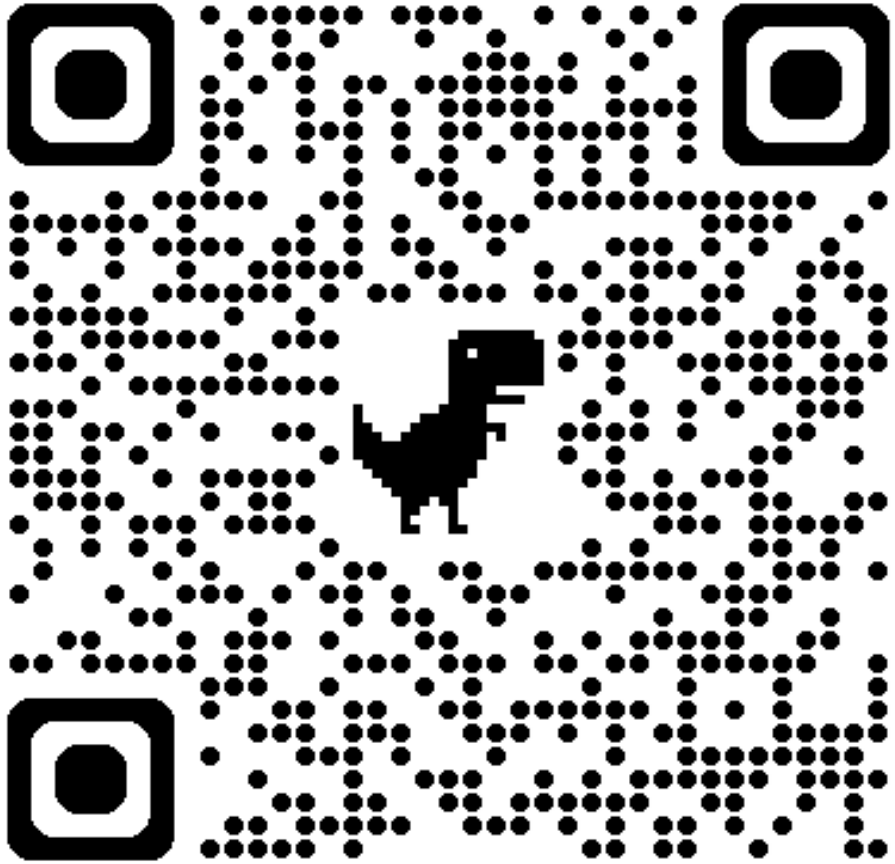
Sample – Adjective Order (NO SAS COMP) - Made with VoiceMod

Also, end-of-term dedications/celebrations:
Instructor Hossein's Ravanbaksh's song

Student reply in Pronto (school text messaging platform):

You made me cry teacher. I am a teacher too Spanish teacher AND you teach me How I can to motivate my students never give up. God bless you. Thanks for your spirit AND your heart. I promise to learn english Very well. 👏🏻👏🏻👏🏻❤️❤️❤️

Suno: You Try It!



Generate a song about your job, your hobby, your class, or a class concept you teach.

Suno - suno.com

Many others, among them:

- SongR
- Rhyme.cool
- These Lyrics Do Not Exist

Resources

AICyclopedia - 100+ AI products launched daily

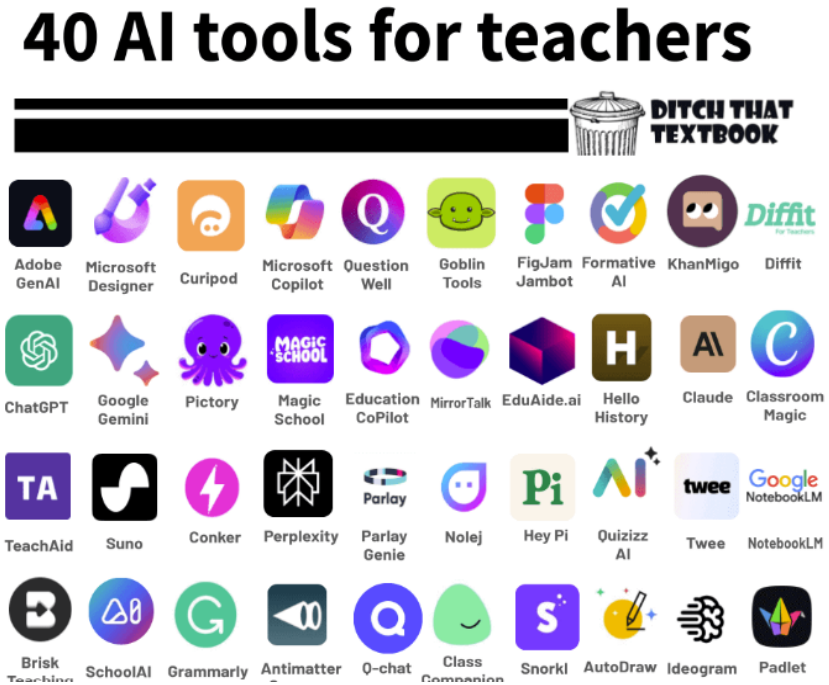
AI Educator Tools – Repository for AI tools with potential for educational uses

Ditch That Textbook – 40+ AI Tools for the Classroom

Futurepedia - AI tools directory with nearly 1300 tools in 50 categories, updated daily

The Next AI Tool - more than 43K AI tools across 80+ categories

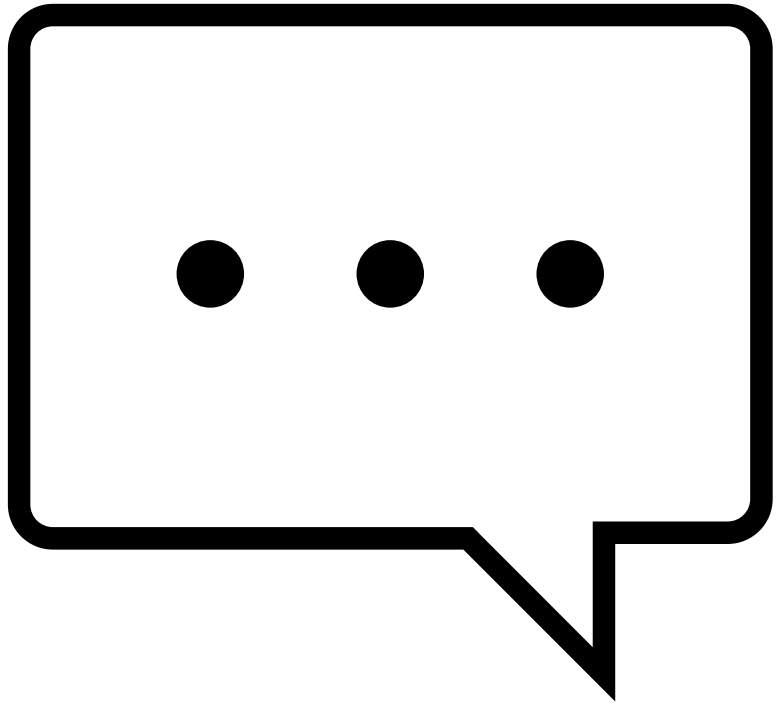
There's An AI for That - database of 3000+ AIs available for over 600 tasks



Reflection

What do you want to learn, try, explore?

What are your plans?



Questions? Comments?

Email me kreyes@otan.us

Connect with me on LinkedIn
www.linkedin.com/in/kristireyes

Thank you!

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