

AI DISCOVERERS | ELEMENTARY

Pattern Detectives

How Machines Notice Similarities

Grades 3-5

45-60 minutes

FAMILY CONNECTION

A simple way to continue AI literacy learning at home

A family-friendly extension that reinforces safe, thoughtful, and responsible AI literacy habits at home.



NOTICE



CHECK



THINK



CREATE

What Students Learned

Students explored how people and machines can group information by noticing patterns and features. They practiced explaining a sorting rule, comparing different rules, and identifying why people should check important machine-generated results.

Try This at Home: The Sorting Challenge

Choose 8-12 safe household objects, such as utensils, socks, books, containers, or toys.

- One person silently sorts the objects into two or three groups.
- Everyone else guesses the rule and names the evidence they noticed.
- Try a second rule using the same objects.
- Discuss which rule was most useful and why.
- Choose one object that could reasonably belong in more than one group.

Family Discussion Questions

- Can the same objects be sorted in more than one correct way?
- What happens when the examples are incomplete?
- What could happen if a label is wrong?
- Why should people check a recommendation made by a computer?
- Where do we see categories or recommendations in everyday life?

Words to Know

Pattern: A feature, order, or relationship that repeats or helps us organize information.

Feature: Something we can notice or describe about an item, such as shape, size, use, or color.

Category: A group of items that share a rule or feature.

Classify: To place items into groups using a rule.

Example: An item used to show what belongs in a group.

Family Reminder

Children should use only age-appropriate, school- or family-approved tools. Do not enter private information into an AI system. Encourage children to ask questions, verify important information, and explain their own thinking.