

Unplugged AI Activity: Emoji Detectives 🔍 (2+ players)

Type: Icebreaker (15-20 mins)

Activity Overview:

Step into the role of a data detective! Participants take on a playful investigation challenge, using clues from labelled emoji cards to crack the case of the hidden categories. By spotting patterns and making clever classifications, they'll uncover the secrets of supervised learning in this fast-paced classification game.

Setup

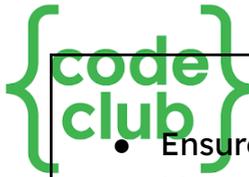
Materials Needed:

- Emoji cards (printed or drawn by participants)
 - Tokens or marks to indicate emojis that fit the rule
 - Pens or pencils
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Gameplay Structure:

Step 1: Choosing a Secret Rule (2 min)

- Divide participants into two teams.
- Team A secretly decides on a classification rule (e.g., "happy" emojis, "food" emojis, emojis with many colours, "animal" emojis).
- Team A selects and clearly marks *a few* (not all) emoji cards that fit their rule (without revealing the rule itself) by placing counters/marks on them.



Important Guidelines for Choosing Rules

- Ensure the rule is neither too broad nor too specific.
- Make sure multiple emoji cards can fit the rule.
- Avoid rules that result in no emojis fitting (called a *null set*) or rules that apply to only one emoji.

Step 2: Detective Work (5 min)

- Team B observes the marked emoji cards.
- Team B guesses the secret classification rule by selecting new emoji cards they believe fit the rule.
- Team A provides feedback, confirming if the guess is correct.

Step 3: Group Discussion & Reflection (5–10 min)

- Both teams discuss and debate why certain emojis fit or didn't fit the classification rule.
- Team B finalises their guess for Team A's secret rule.
- Team A reveals their actual rule.

Step 4: Switch Roles (Optional Round 2) (10-15 min)

- Swap roles, giving Team B a chance to create their own secret classification rule.
- Repeat detective work and group discussion.

Example Classification Rules:

- Emotion-based (happy, sad, angry)
 - Object-based (animals, foods, toys)
 - Activity-based (sports, leisure, holidays)
 - Colour-based (bright, dark, monochrome)
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Leader Tips:



- Encourage discussion about unclear classifications to highlight the complexity of labelling data.
- Ensure categories are simple and age-appropriate.

Print and cut out these emoji cards to use with the **AI Unplugged: Emoji Detectives** activity.



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