

What's happening in the news this week?



Let's have a look at this week's poster!

31st October - 6th November 2022



Let's look at this week's story



A robot named Ai-Da has become the first robot to speak in the House of Lords in Westminster, London. The robot spoke to the House about Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the future of arts, fashion, and music. Ai-Da's creators hope that she will give the House of Lords and others a fresh perspective on how technology can be used to create art in the future.

Built in Cornwall by Engineered Arts, Ai-Da was then programmed by an international team and named after English mathematician, Ada Lovelace.

Learn more about this week's story [here](#).
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).
This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).

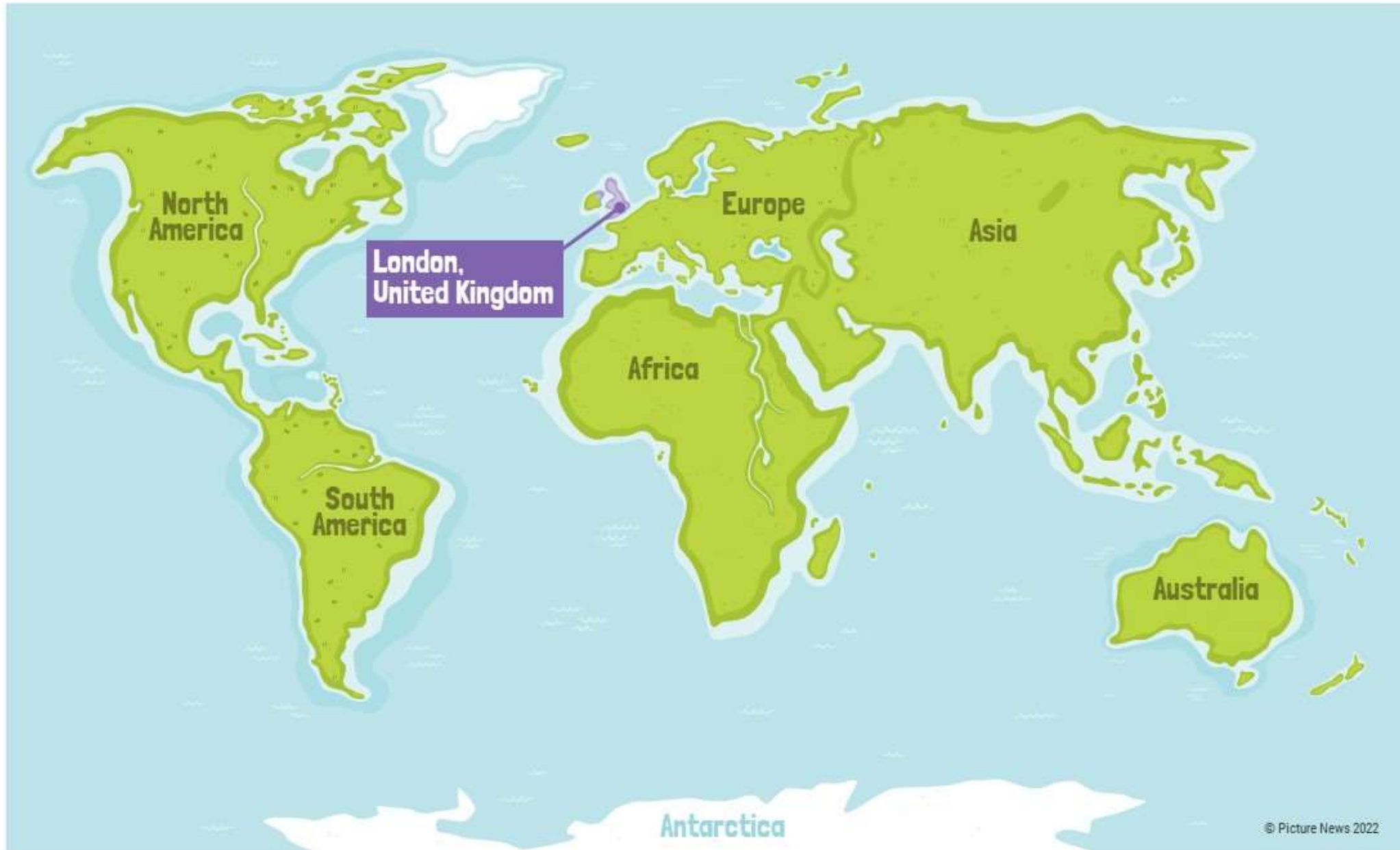


How does it make me feel?



sad	angry	happy	confused	excited	worried	shocked	afraid
despondent disconsolate dismal doleful downhearted forlorn gloomy melancholic miserable woeful wretched	aggrieved annoyed discontented disgruntled distressed exasperated frustrated indignant offended outraged resentful vexed	beaming buoyant cheery contented delighted enraptured gleeful glowing joyful	addled baffled bemused bewildered disorientated indistinct muddled mystified perplexed puzzled	animated elevated enlivened enthusiastic exhilarated exuberant thrilled	agitated anxious apprehensive concerned disquieted distraught distressed disturbed fretful perturbed troubled uneasy	astonished astounded disconcerted distressed dumbfounded horrified staggered startled stunned surprised	alarmed apprehensive daunted fearful frantic horrified petrified terrified

This week's story looks at events related to ...





Read through the information below.

Who is Ai-Da?

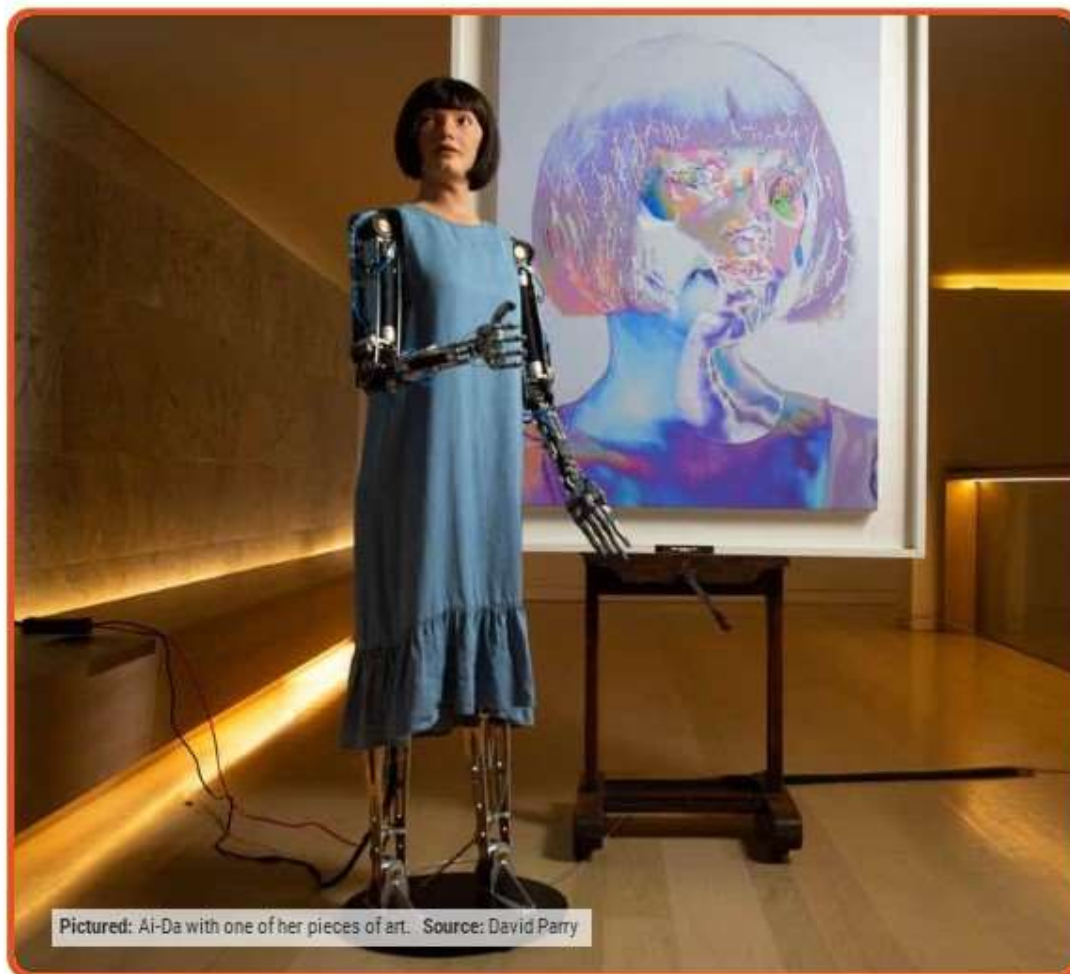
Ai-Da was created in the UK in 2019 and is described as an ultra-realistic artist robot by Aidan Meller, one of her creators.

She draws and paints using her arms, cameras in her eyes, and AI algorithms (which are lists of rules to follow). She scans a picture with her camera eyes and then uses that information to create a path for her hand to draw.

Ai-Da has made lots of drawings and paintings, including a portrait of the Queen for her Platinum Jubilee, and her work has been displayed in galleries all around the world.

I produce my paintings by cameras in my eyes, my AI algorithms, and my robotic arm to paint on canvas, which results in visually appealing images. Although not alive, I can still create art.

Ai-Da, speaking at the House of Lords about her artwork.



Pictured: Ai-Da with one of her pieces of art. Source: David Parry

**Share your thoughts on robots producing art.
What other creative things do you think robots might do next?**



Look at the resource below.



Robot

Not a robot



**Which of the pictures do you think show a robot? Which are not robots?
Are there any you are not sure about? What might the object in each picture be used for?**



Look at the resource below, which shares some examples of robots throughout time.

2000 years ago

Archaeologists and historians have found artefacts that suggest robots date as far back as 2000 years. Early mechanical robots were known as automaton, which means 'to act on one's own will' and were often made to entertain others.



Pictured above: NASA's rover named Perseverance landed on Mars

1730's

Vaucanson creates an automatic duck that can drink, eat, paddle in water, digest and excrete like a real duck.

1948-9

British robotics pioneer William Grey Walter creates Elmer and Elsie, autonomous machines that mimicked lifelike behaviour with very simple circuitry.

1973

The AI department in Edinburgh, UK, shares Freddy II, a robot that can assemble objects automatically from a heap of parts.



Pictured above: robots in the car manufacturing industry.

2021

NASA's rover, named Perseverance (pictured left) lands on Mars. It's main job is to seek signs of ancient life and collect rock and soil samples for possible return to Earth.

2010

PR2 robots by Willow Garage are created to complete household tasks such as wash dishes, clean up, fold towels and get drinks from the fridge.

1994

A robot called Dante II, built by scientists from Carnegie Mellon University collects samples of volcanic gases from the interior of the Mount Spurr volcano in Alaska.

Did you know?

The first use of the word 'robot' came from a play, Rossum's Universal Robots, written by Karel Čapek in 1920. It came from the Czech word 'Robota', meaning 'forced labour'.



**How do you think robots have changed over time?
Which robot do you think has the most value?**



**Will robots make
the world a better
place?**

Reflection



Robots, like many other technologies, have made parts of our lives easier and more efficient. However, it's important to understand their limitations and understand the difference between robots and real life.





Individual Liberty

People are responsible for advances in science and technology. It is important that risks are managed and the consequences considered carefully so that these advances help us.





UN Rights of a Child



We have the right to be protected from doing work that is dangerous or bad for our education, health or development. Some dangerous tasks are now carried out by robots, helping keep people safe.



Useful vocabulary



Artificial Intelligence

A type of computer technology, which is concerned with making machines work in an intelligent way, similar to the way that the human mind works.

The robot spoke to the House about **Artificial Intelligence** (AI) and the future of arts, fashion, and music.

Creative

Involving the use of the imagination or original ideas to create something.

What other **creative** things do you think robots might do next?

Efficient

Working or operating quickly and effectively in an organised way.

Robots, like many other technologies, have made parts of our lives easier and more **efficient**.

Interactive

Allows direct communication between user and machine.

Do you consider **interactive** speakers like Amazon's Echo or Google Home devices as robots?

Limitations

What is possible or allowed.

However, it's important to understand their **limitations**.

Perspective

A particular attitude towards or way of regarding something; a point of view.

Ai-Da's creators hope that she will give the House of Lords and others a fresh **perspective** on how technology can be used to create art in the future.

Can you use them in your writing this week?

Picture News



Will robots make the world a better place?

A robot named Ai-Da has become the first robot to speak in the House of Lords in Westminster, London. The robot spoke to the House about Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the future of arts, fashion, and music. Ai-Da's creators hope that she will give the House of Lords and others a fresh perspective on how technology can be used to create art in the future. Built in Cornwall by Engineered Arts, Ai-Da was then programmed by an international team and named after English mathematician, Ada Lovelace.



- Look at this week's poster image and talk about what you can see. Explain that the robot on the poster is an artist and has recently spoken to people in government about the future of robots in areas like fashion and art.
- Talk about your own understanding of what a robot is, have you ever seen one in action? Do you consider interactive speakers like Amazon's Echo or Google Home devices as robots?
- Read through the information found on the assembly resource. Share your thoughts on robots producing art. What other creative things do you think robots might do next? E.g., dancing, writing, stories etc.
- Talk about what you imagine the future of robots might be? What kinds of things do you think they might do? What would you like them to be able to do?
- Make a list of some pros and cons of robots. Do you think there should be more or fewer robots around?
- Watch this week's useful video. What do you think about Ai-Da's speech? Why do you think she was asked to speak?

Reflection

Robots, like many other technologies, have made parts of our lives easier and more efficient. However, it's important to understand their limitations and understand the difference between robots and real life.

Picture News



KS1 focus

What is a robot?



- Write the word 'robot' on the board. What do you think a robot is? What do you know about robots? Do you have any robot toys at home? Have you read any books or seen any films that feature robots?
- Look at resource 1. Which of the pictures do you think show a robot? Which are not robots? Are there any you are not sure about?
- Focus on the image of the car. Explain that a car is a vehicle used to transport people. Usually, a person operates the car so we would not describe this as a robot. However, there are some cars that are robotic or self-driving. They use technology to sense their surroundings.
- Explain that a robot is a machine that is usually programmed by a computer. It can carry out a range of actions automatically, which means with very little or no help from humans. Discuss some of the jobs robots help us do e.g., exploring space, manufacturing cars. Are there any jobs you would like a robot to be able to do for you?
- Thinking back to some of the robot toys you may have at home or school (like the Lego robot on resource 1), which do you think are actually robots and which are models of robots?

Reflection

There are many different types of robots that carry out a range of actions automatically. Many robots have been designed to help us and make our lives easier.

Picture News



KS2 focus

How has the use and development of robots changed over time?



- Discuss your experience of robots. Have you ever used a robot or seen one in action? Are robots something that interest you?
- Look at resource 2, which shares some examples of robots throughout time. How do you think robots have changed over time? Which robot do you think has the most value?
- For each robot mentioned on resource 2, discuss what its function is. Do you think robots have become more useful to humans over time? Do you think robots in the future will be more useful and helpful to humans? What jobs or functions do you imagine they can complete?
- Not everyone agrees on the definition of 'robot'. Some people view machines, such as automated looms, introduced during the Industrial Revolution as robots; others believe the machine needs to be controlled by a computer or resemble a human to be a robot. What is your definition of a robot?
- The first use of the word 'robot' came from a play called Rossum's Universal Robots. Have you read any books or watched any films that feature robots? Are the robots depicted as good, evil or both?

Reflection

Industry, science and technology continues to develop and advance. New discoveries, including the use and function of robots, are happening all the time.

Picture News



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

There are many fiction stories and films that include robots e.g., The Iron Giant, Wall-E, Star Wars, Transformers. Create your own fictional robot character. Think about:

- Describe what your robot looks like.
- How big is it?
- Can you describe the way it moves?
- Is it good or evil?
- What is its main function?
- Does it have a name?
- How does it communicate?
- What sounds or noises does it make?

Challenge – create a narrative featuring your robot as one of the main characters!

Option 2

Use robots to inspire a dance! Work in small groups to choreograph your own robot routine. Create four robot movements, each for eight beats. Include some of the following in your dance:

- Different levels (some moves up high, some down low).
- Different directions.
- Unison (everyone in the group performs the move at the same time).
- Cannon (everyone in the group performs the move one after the other).

Practise and refine your dance considering timing and making sure everyone is synchronized. You could perform your dance to others and ask them to evaluate your routine and performance.

Picture News



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Use this opportunity to explore programming your floor robot (e.g., Bee-Bot or Blue-Bot). Programme the floor turtle to complete the following:

- Move in a straight line.
- Turn left.
- Turn right.
- Turn clockwise a quarter turn/a right angle.
- Turn anti-clockwise half a turn.
- Create your own sequence of instructions (algorithms) and enter them.

Challenge – can you programme your floor turtle to draw a number 3?

Option 2

Design and make your very own junk model robot! Begin by looking at some images to inspire you (use the images below or internet search 'junk model robot'). Think about:

- What junk materials will you need? Cereal boxes, kitchen rolls, sweet packets?
- How will you attach your junk materials together?
- How will you decorate your junk model robot? Will you need any other items to help you do this?
- What will you call your robot?



@KirstycMartin
Twitter



@LSEATBelmont
Twitter



@GHDDigiteam
Twitter

Picture News



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

<https://bit.ly/3CTpNn4>

This week's useful video

AI-Da's speech

<https://reut.rs/3g861eY>

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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Giant pumpkin weigh-offs

A pumpkin grown by Minnesota horticulture teacher, Travis Gienger, has smashed the previous record for the heaviest pumpkin grown in the U.S.A at the 49th Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off in northern California. The weigh-off organisers tweeted, 'Two-time winner Travis Gienger 🍂 of Anoka MN is 2022 Pumpkin King! His 2560-pound Rhinoceros-sized Mega-Gourd set a new North American Record.' The massive squash took the title from New Yorker Scott Andrusz, who had weighed in his pumpkin at 2,554 pounds (1,158 kg) during The Great Pumpkin Farm fall festival, held earlier this month in Buffalo. The gigantic fruit broke the New York, US, and North American records as 'heaviest pumpkin'! The world record is still safe for now, continuing to be held by Stefano Cutrupi from Italy who grew a 2703-pound (1,226 kg) squash in 2021.



Pictured: Travis Gienger with record-breaking pumpkin.
Source: Half Moon Bay Art & Pumpkin Festival
@HMBPumpkinFest Twitter page.



Pictured: Ancient Assyrian wall carving. **Source:** Canva

Ancient rock carvings unearthed

Impressive ancient rock carvings have been found in Iraq. Archaeologists at Mashki Gate, in northern Iraq, have unearthed stunning grey rock carvings that were made about 2,700 years ago. The excavation team, from Iraq's Mosul University and the United States' University of Pennsylvania, made the amazing discoveries whilst working to restore the Mashki Gate. The eight finely-made marble bas-relief carvings show finely chiselled

war scenes (including an Assyrian soldier pulling back an arrow, ready to fire), grape vines, and palm trees. Fadel Mohammed Khodr, head of the Iraqi archaeological team working at the site said, 'We believe that these carvings were moved from the palace of Sennacherib and reused by the grandson of the king to renovate the gate of Mashki and to enlarge the guard room. Only the part buried underground has retained its carvings.'

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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Paw-some caddy!



Pictured: Golf balls. Source: Canva.

Marlo, a six-year-old Cavapoo from London, is very good at finding and collecting lost golf balls. A Cavapoo is a mixed breed dog (also called a Cavadoodle or a Cavoodle), a cross between the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and Poodle dog breeds. The clever dog has retrieved over 6,000 with his owner Charles Jefferson! The pair collect the discarded balls whilst on walks together around various golf courses. They are now using Marlo's skills to help provide golf charities

with the balls they need to teach children around the world. The balls that Marlo has collected have been added to a donation drive by the DP World Tour, aimed at helping golfing charities and preventing golf ball littering. Their aim is to fill a 6-metre-long shipping container with second-hand tour-grade balls, to then send on to Kenya's Junior Golf Foundation, the South African Disabled Golf Association, the European Disabled Golf Association, the UAE's Chicks with Sticks, and India's Golf Foundation.

Last week's topic:

If we do something wrong, who should decide the consequences?



I think you shouldn't choose your own punishments because they could be good ones.

Lewis

We need to take responsibility for our actions, in the example from Davinia, I think her dad was right to send her to her room to think about her actions.

Quayah

It depends because if you're at home, then it should be your parent or your guardian and at any other places, it should be whoever is in charge of you.

Finn

Let us know what you think about this week's news?



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TAKEHOME



Will robots make the world a better place?

In the news this week

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Things to talk about at home ...

- > What do you think about a robot producing art? How is it different, in your opinion, from art produced by a human?
- > What do you imagine robots might be like in the future? What kinds of things do you think they might be able to do?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

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