

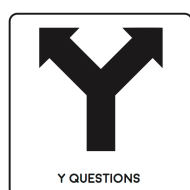
Could a Robot Replace...?

This enquiry was created by teachers on one of our open courses to in with their current topic: Robots. Which jobs could be replaced by a robot? The opening activity can easily lead to a full enquiry, or can serve as a warm-up to the next question, presented in the 'Take a Back Seat' section below.



You could use the cards attached by calling out each job and asking pupils to show their thinking by standing either side of a Yes/No dividing line. Then place the card on the floor to reflect the spread.

Alternatively, print off enough sets for small groups to sort the cards on the floor.



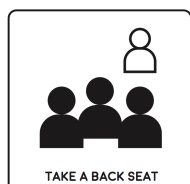
You could also stretch their thinking by following up with...

Should a Robot Replace...?

Will a Robot Replace...?

...and see how the jobs are rearranged. Possibility, desirability and probability are all different ways of thinking about the future that invite different choices and reasons.

To move to whole-class discussion, you could ask pupils to vote on which would be most interesting to debate, or let them create their own philosophical questions off the back of the game. If you have more time, you might use this as a warm-up activity before moving on to the next suggestion.



A report was recently published by the Royal Society and British Academy recommending an overarching law of robotics: "Humans should flourish."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-40423595>

Using the opening paragraphs of the news article as a stimulus, invite pupils to question the findings: *Should the main law for robots be: "Humans should flourish."?*

Of course, what it means for humans to flourish is itself a huge question. You could also invite them come up with their own laws for robots. And if a robot broke one of their laws, who should be punished?

NEXT STEPS

You might want to move beyond robots, laws and responsibility and on to a more speculative question about what the future holds. Dr. Stephen Hawking fears we may one day become enslaved by artificial intelligence. It's a scenario common to many science fiction stories. How likely is this? Can we, as a human race, remain the dominant intelligence in our world?

Police Officer



Teacher



Fire-Fighter



Parent



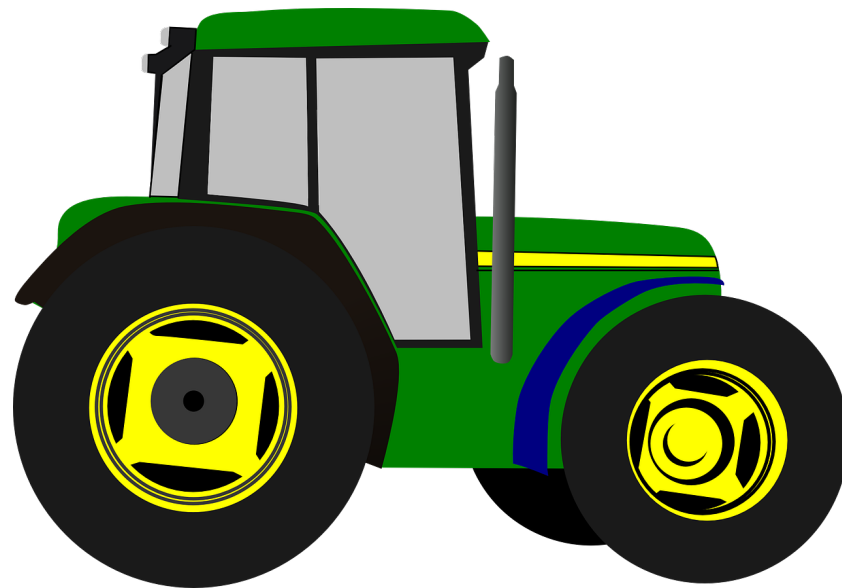
Brother/Sister



Doctor



Farmer



Pilot



Judge



Librarian

