

Creating and Analyzing Artistic Images with AI

Why?

This lesson provides students with the opportunity to engage with art and technology simultaneously, encouraging creativity and critical thinking. By using an AI image generator, students gain hands-on experience with modern tools and learn to appreciate various artistic styles. Analyzing the generated images helps develop their analytical skills and understanding of artistic principles.

Materials Needed

- Computers or tablets with internet access
- Access to an AI image generator (e.g., DALL-E, MidJourney)
- Projector and screen for whole-class demonstrations

Time needed

Approximately 45 to 60 minutes

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Use an AI image generator to create images in a specified artistic style.
- Analyze and evaluate images using teacher-specified guidelines.
- Reflect on the process of creating art with AI and its implications.

Lesson

This is a versatile lesson designed to be used in a variety of subject areas. Below are some ideas for ways in which to use the lesson:

- **Art:** Exploring and comparing different art movements. Students use AI to generate images in various artistic styles (e.g., Impressionism, Surrealism) and analyze how AI interprets the key characteristics of each style.
- **Science:** Visualizing scientific concepts or phenomena. Students generate images that represent abstract scientific concepts (e.g., atoms, ecosystems) or depict scenarios in space (e.g., life on other planets), then analyze how accurately and effectively these images convey scientific information.
- **History:** Visualizing historical events or periods. Students generate images depicting significant historical events, people, or daily life in different historical periods, then analyze the accuracy and artistic interpretation of these images based on information from texts.
- **Social Studies:** Depicting cultural practices and traditions. Students create images that represent various cultural practices, traditions, or social issues, then analyze and discuss the cultural accuracy and implications of the AI-generated images.
- **Geography:** Creating visual representations of different geographical locations. Students generate images of various landscapes, climates, or urban

environments, then analyze and discuss the geographical features and accuracy of these images.

- **Literature:** Illustrating scenes from literary works. Students create visual representations of scenes or characters from novels, poems, or plays using AI. They then discuss how well the images capture the essence of the text.

Steps in the lesson

1. **Introduction:** Briefly introduce the concept of AI and generative AI.
 - a. Discuss the purpose of the lesson and the artistic style that will be the focus. See above for ideas for when and how to use this lesson.
2. **Demonstration:** Show students how to use an AI image generator to create images. (See some links below for simple image generators)
 - a. Generate a sample image in the chosen style and display it to the class.
3. **Creation:** Students use the AI image generator to create their own images in the specified style.
 - a. Encourage creativity and exploration of different prompts and variations.
4. **Analysis:** Provide students with guidelines for analyzing the art.
 - a. Students may analyze their own images and a peer's image, focusing on elements such as composition, use of color, and adherence to the chosen style.
5. **Reflection:** Students write a short reflection on their experience using AI to create art and how it compares to traditional methods.

Discussion Questions

- What was your initial reaction to using an AI image generator to create art?
- How did the images generated by AI compare to traditional artworks in the same style?
- What challenges did you face when creating or analyzing the images?
- In what ways do you think AI can influence the future of art?
- Can AI-generated art be considered "real" art? Why or why not?
- How did using AI affect your creativity during this lesson?

Supplemental Activity Ideas

- **Art Exhibition:** Organize a virtual or physical exhibition of the AI-generated images. Invite other students, teachers, and parents to view and discuss the artwork.
- **Traditional Art Comparison:** Have students create a traditional piece of art in the same style as their AI-generated image. Compare and contrast the two pieces, discussing the strengths and weaknesses of each method.
- **Art History Research:** Assign students to research the history and key characteristics of the chosen artistic style. Present their findings to the class in a short presentation.

Sources to Learn More

- Types and styles of art to try with generative AI - <https://www.shutterstock.com/blog/generative-ai-photo-styles>

Simple free AI image generators

- Bing Image Creator - www.bing.com/images/create
- Ideogram - www.ideogram.ai
- Craiyon - www.craiyon.com
- Wombo Dream - www.dream.ai