



Happy New Year, may your data be clean  
and your systems run flawlessly!

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#### REMEMBER WHEN?

Remember when a major computer bug was feared at the turn of the millennium that would cause systems to confuse "00" as 1900 instead of 2000? This was because many older computer programs had coded dates using only two numbers for the year. Hardware and software were checked for compliance, and replaced if outdated, systems that relied on dates were checked, code was rewritten or replaced, etc. It was thought that there would have been between \$300-\$600 billion worth of damages, massive power outages, transportation systems shut down, and banks closed down. Small businesses did have some minor disruptions, but after all was said and done, there was no epidemic of failures on Jan. 1, 2000. Whew!





## HOW TO CREATE WINTER CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES WITH GOOGLE GEMINI:

Connect Lessons to Winter Themes - Customize lesson plans with the help of AI to reflect winter themes. You can use Gemini to make subjects like history or science relevant to the current season. How does it work? Try this prompt: I am teaching [topic] to a group of [grade] students. I want to connect this topic to the winter season. Give me 5 ideas on how this topic connects to winter.

Generate Winter Stories - Have AI craft short winter tales that students can read. You can use Gemini to create thematic, leveled passages to share with your students.

Fun Facts About Winter - During the winter season, you might decide to start each day by sharing a fun fact about winter. You can Gemini to make a list of fun facts to share with your students.

Create Wintry Music - Use Gemini to compose winter-inspired music to share with your students. You can ask students to guess the prompt to see if they can determine the winter connection. It's a great way to set a wintry mood in your classroom!

# TECHNOLOGY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS:

Technology New Year's resolutions focus on better digital habits, security, and learning. The following resolutions can help you navigate the digital landscape more safely and positively:

## Limit Social Media Time

Doomscrolling and endless hours on social media can negatively impact mental health and productivity. Set time limits for yourself and your family. Encourage device-free dinners and quality time together. Add a cut-off time for your evening routine when phones are put away.

## Don't Believe Everything You See Online

With advancements in AI, it's becoming increasingly difficult to distinguish between real and fake content. Be skeptical of clickbait, sensational headlines, and unverified images. Think twice before sharing and consider the source.

## Care for Your Devices

Our smartphones, laptops, tablets, and other tech devices have become essential to everyday life—whether we like it or not—and they are not cheap. Protect your investment by taking extra care of your devices this year.

## Learn New Skills

Consider learning to code or improving existing tech skills.

## Use Tech for Good

You already use tech for good in the classroom, but you can use it for personal good too. Find apps and tools (fitness trackers, etc.) to support health goals.

Focus on innovation that serves the common good and ensures positive outcomes for people and the planet!

Classwize reminder!  
Classwize is your class management and student monitoring program now, instead of GoGuardian. The program is found on your ClassLink launchpad and instructions and resources regarding the program can be found [here](#).

## CONTACT US:

[www.fcstn.net/technology](http://www.fcstn.net/technology)

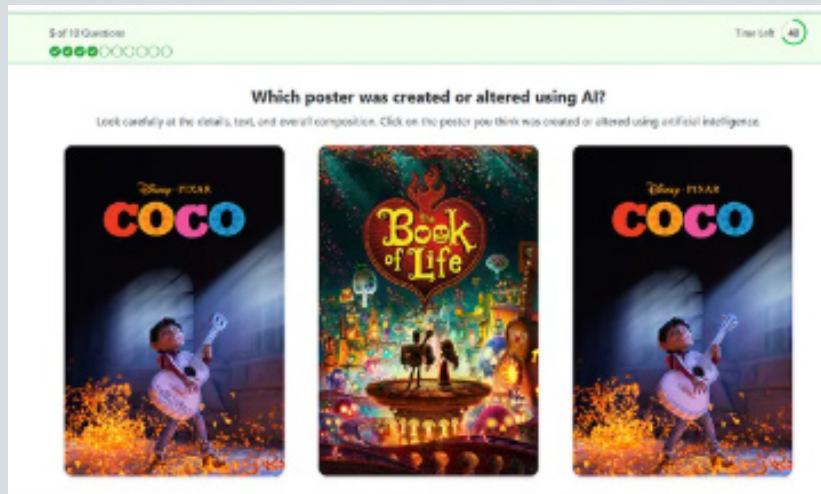
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## TWO TRUTHS & AI GAME

Two Truths & AI is an interactive digital literacy game for grades K–12 that teaches students to identify AI-generated content and develop critical media literacy skills. Through an engaging, 60-second challenge, students try to distinguish between real and AI-generated movie posters. It's a fun way for students to test their AI detective skills, while also building their critical thinking muscles.



Students learn how to identify AI-generated images and evaluate digital media authenticity amid the ever-growing presence of AI online. Students will:

- Spot AI-generated content by noticing visual clues like text errors, odd details, and using their prior knowledge.
- Think critically about digital images and learn to verify what's authentic vs. altered.
- Explain their reasoning through discussion, practicing both quick decisions and thoughtful analysis. [Play Game!](#)