Mystery Faces (2+ players/teams)

Overview

Become a master detective by asking clever yes/no questions to uncover the mystery character! In this game, players spot patterns and use key features to narrow options.

> Creators will explore how asking the right questions (based on attributes) helps them sort and classify information efficiently, just like how AI systems work with data!

Materials

✅ Printable character sheets (a grid of faces or characters with varied features)
✅ A list of possible features (optional, for younger players)
✅ Pens or tokens to mark eliminated characters

Activity steps

1. Set Up Your Character Board

Each player/team gets an identical grid of character faces. These faces vary by clear, classifiable features such as:

- Hair colour/style
- Glasses or no glasses
- Hat or no hat
- Facial expression (happy/sad)
- Accessories (earrings, scarf, etc.)

2. Secret Character Selection

Each player (or team) secretly picks one character from their board as the "Mystery Character."
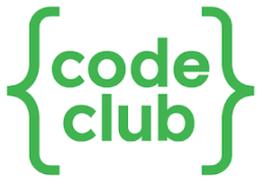
3. Ask & Eliminate

Players ask YES/NO questions to discover the opponent's mystery character. Examples:

- "Does your character wear glasses?"
- "Is your character smiling?"
- "Does your character have a hat?"

After each answer, players cross off characters that no longer fit the description.

4. Make Your Guess!

When a player/team feels confident, they can guess the mystery character. First to guess correctly wins! If the guess is wrong, they lose the game!

Wrap-Up: Key Takeaways

✅ Used features (attributes) to **classify** and eliminate options.
✅ Each YES/NO question acted like a **decision** in a classification **tree**.
✅ Computers use similar methods to sort data into **categories** in machine learning.
✅ The more **precise** your questions, the faster you reach the answer, highlighting efficient classification.

Extension Ideas

- **Design Your Own Characters:** Let Creators draw or customise their own grid, change it from faces, thinking carefully about the theme and which features will provide good classification challenges.
- **Challenge Mode:** Limit the number of questions—who can classify the fastest?
- **Bias Discussion:** What happens if most characters look too similar? Great intro to dataset diversity and bias in AI.
- To find out more about **decision trees**, try the rpf.io/dinodecision project

Leader Tips

- Avoid using terms like "classification" until the reflection phase to keep the discovery organic.
- Encourage players to think about which features are most useful early on, this leads naturally into conversations about data selection.
- For accessibility, ensure features are distinct (use bold symbols, colours, or shapes if working beyond faces).
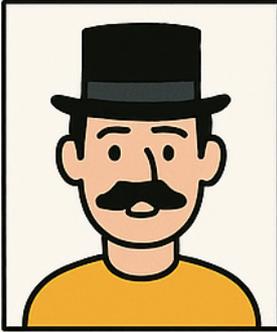
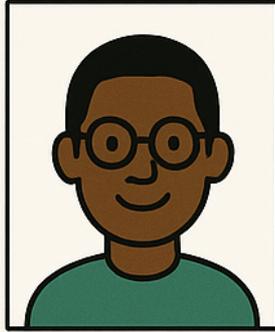## Now you are warmed up for...

Apple vs tomato: https://rpf.io/apple-vs-tomato
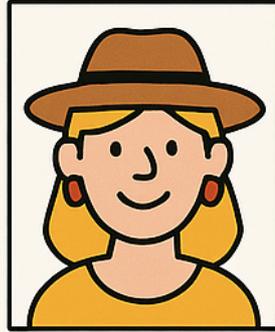

Teach a machine: https://rpf.io/tam
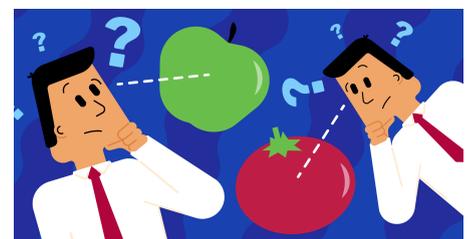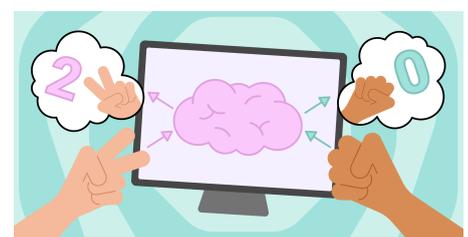
MYSTERY FACES

MICHAEL	SAM	EMILY	RAJ
ANITA	PETER	MARIA	JOHN
CLAIRE	FRANZ	LILY	BEN
JOE	HOLLY	WILL	ELLA
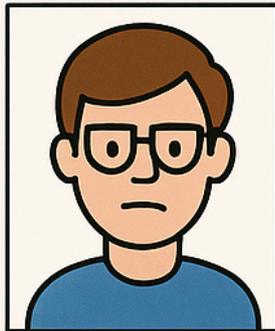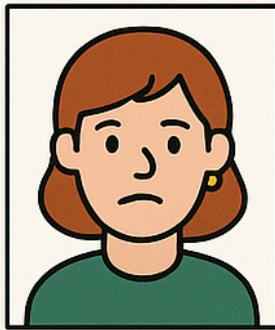
MYSTERY FACES

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AMOS	MEI	JAKOB	LAYLA
PRIYA	SAM	LUCAS	HAZEL
CLAIRE	AHMED	ROSA	RILEY
FRED	ZAHRA	ERIK	NORA

MYSTERY FACES
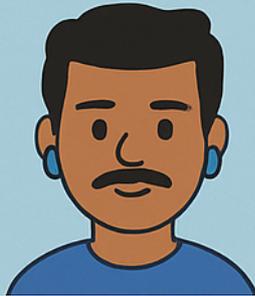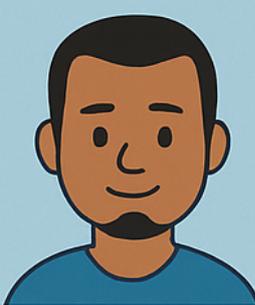
Mia	Gabriel	Layla	Amir
Freya	Yusuf	Priya	Patrick
Abdul	Helen	Isaac	Ruth
Sofia	Walter	Anaya	Leon