

MILITARY ROBOTS

Lesson Plan

Pros and Cons

Lesson Plan for *Military Robots*

Grade 2

Objective

To help students practice describing the advantages and disadvantages of using robots to perform tasks.

Things Needed

- *Military Robots* book
- Whiteboard

Before the Activity

Read the *Military Robots* book as a class.

Activity

Turn to Chapter 3 (“Military Robots Today”) and choose a student to reread the main text and photo caption on pages 18 and 19:

- main text: “Robots are now part of many military missions. Armies often use drones to attack enemies. These drones carry missiles. They fire missiles at areas where the army believes enemies are. The soldiers who steer the drones can stay far from danger.”
- photo caption: “Drones sometimes hurt innocent people. Some people think militaries should not use drones.”

Explain that these pages describe one advantage of using drones and one disadvantage. Ask students to identify these two facts. Write their answers on the whiteboard in two columns labeled PROS and CONS. Explain that these labels can be used to sort information into categories.

Then, turn to Chapter 4 (“Special Military Robots”) and choose a different student to reread the main text and sidebar on pages 28 and 29:



POPBOOKSONLINE.COM

©2020 Pop!

- main text: “Scientists are also working on new ideas for robots. Many new robots use artificial intelligence (AI). AI helps robots behave more like humans. The robots can learn and perform tasks on their own.”
- sidebar: “Programming is a way of creating directions for computers. It tells a robot what to do. Robots first gather information about the world around them. Their programming then tells them how to respond. In the past, robots could only follow specific steps. But AI allows robots to learn or make choices.”

Based on this information, ask students to brainstorm possible advantages and disadvantages of using artificial intelligence for military robots. Write their answers on the whiteboard, again using the labels PROS and CONS to organize the information.

Evaluation

Could students identify the advantage and disadvantage in the first example? Could they infer advantages or disadvantages based on the second example?

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards’ reading standards for informational texts, grade 2 (RI 2.1).

