

**What's happening
in the news this week?**



Let's have a look at this week's poster!

13th - 19th November 2023



 Picture News

Are there some jobs robots could never do?



Let's look at this week's story

A new robot called Digit, designed to be human-like and that is capable of lifting and moving items, is being tested in warehouses of the online retailer, Amazon. The robot is in its first few weeks of trials at Amazon's facility in Seattle, USA, as the company tries to improve automation in its processes. To begin with, the robot is being taught to pick up and move empty boxes to ensure that they are ready for reuse. The yellow boxes, or totes, are used throughout the company's fulfilment process.



Learn more about this week's story [here](#).
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).
This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).



How does it make me feel?



sad	angry	happy	confused	excited	worried	shocked	afraid
despondent disconsolate dismal doleful downhearted forlorn gloomy melancholic miserable woeful wretched	aggrieved annoyed discontented disgruntled distressed exasperated frustrated indignant offended outraged resentful vexed	beaming buoyant cheery contented delighted enraptured gleeful glowing joyful	addled baffled bemused bewildered disorientated indistinct muddled mystified perplexed puzzled	animated elevated enlivened enthusiastic exhilarated exuberant thrilled	agitated anxious apprehensive concerned disquieted distraught distressed disturbed fretful perturbed troubled uneasy	astonished astounded disconcerted distressed dumbfounded horrified staggered startled stunned surprised	alarmed apprehensive daunted fearful frantic horrified petrified terrified

This week's story looks at events related to ...





Read through the information about Digit found below.

What is Digit?

Digit is a 175cm-tall robot created by Agility Robotics that is being trialled at some of Amazon's warehouses. The robot is capable of carrying items weighing up to 16kg and can work 16 out of 24 hours a day. Its creators say that the machine's run time is equivalent to the working hours of two full-time employees.

What will Digit do?

Digit is able to walk on two legs. This key feature, which gives the robot the ability to move over different terrains and up steps as found in human environments, could be particularly useful for Amazon.

The robot is not yet able to perform more sophisticated tasks, such as identifying items that need to be picked out of boxes for packing.

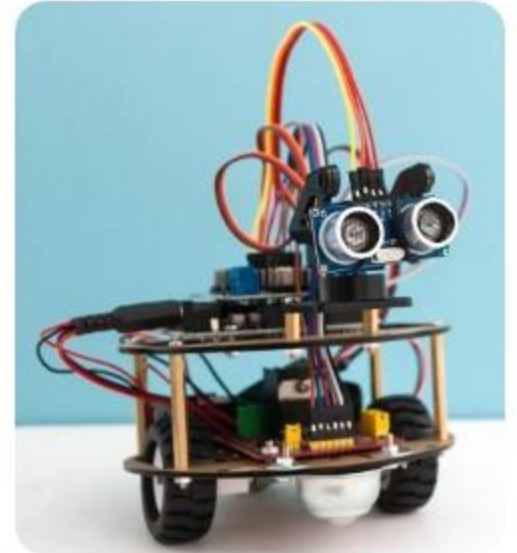


A human worker next to Digit in an Amazon warehouse. **Source:** Amazon.

Share your thoughts on what it might be like to work alongside a robot.



Look at the images below.



Which do you think are robots and which are not?



Look at the resource below, which shares some of the purposes a robot has.

Manufacturing robots

These robots are used to make things such as cars. They can cut and assemble parts without getting tired or hurt.



Tactical robots

These robots are used to make dangerous objects, such as explosives, safe.



Microscopic robots

Nanobots are microscopic robots that can be introduced to the human body. They can be used for medicine and human health.



Household robots

Robots can be used to clean floors, windows, grills or mow lawns. They can also be used as companions or assistants in someone's home.



Space exploration robots

Many robots have been sent to explore space. It is cheaper and safer to send a robot.



**Discuss the job or role each robot has.
What are the benefits of a robot carrying out the job rather than a person?**



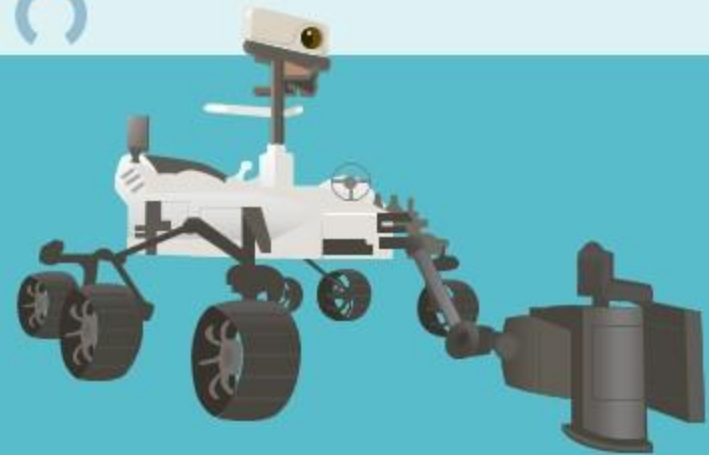
 Picture News

Are there some jobs robots could never do?

Reflection



Developing technologies are enabling robots to do more and more complex tasks and be used increasingly in workplaces. This may change job roles, with humans working alongside robots more.





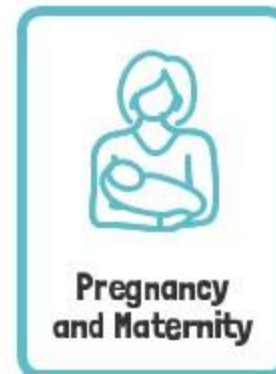
Mutual Respect and Tolerance

Robots feature in some people's lives more than others. Life is not the same for everyone and we can show respect for the beliefs others have and the choices they make.

Protected Characteristics



Our beliefs affect our life choices or the way we live our lives. For some people, robots may form part of their everyday lives. We should never be treated unfairly because of our beliefs.





UN Rights of a Child



We have the right to be protected from doing work that is dangerous or bad for our education, health or development. There are some dangerous jobs that robots can do instead of humans.



Useful vocabulary



Automation

The use of machines and computers that can operate without needing humans.

The robot is in its first few weeks of trials at Amazon's facility in Seattle, USA, as the company tries to improve **automation** in its processes.

Fulfilment

The process of taking an order and sending a product to a customer.

The yellow boxes, or totes, are used throughout the company's **fulfilment** process.

Sophisticated

More advanced or complex.

The robot is not yet able to perform more **sophisticated** tasks.

Terrain

An area or type of land.

This key feature, which gives the robot the ability to walk over different **terrains** and up steps as found in human environments, could be particularly useful for Amazon.

Tote

A large strong bag with two handles.

The yellow boxes, or **totes**, are used throughout the company's fulfilment process.

Trialled

Test something to assess its suitability or performance.

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Can you use them in your writing this week?

Picture News



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- Look at this week's poster and share what you can see. What do you already know about robots?
- Read through the information about Digit found on the assembly resource. Share your thoughts on what it might be like to work alongside a robot.
- Watch the useful video about Digit the robot. Make a list of the pros and cons of how Digit might change the way Amazon warehouses and other workplaces operate.
- One key feature of Digit is its legs, which enable the robot to move around stairs and other objects, like humans do. How might this be useful for Amazon and other businesses? What features do you think are useful in robots? Why?
- What is your definition of a robot?
- Share any experience of robots you have encountered in your life.
- Do you think robots will change things in the future? What type of role do you believe they will take on?
- Do you feel that robots will make the world a better place overall? Explain your thoughts.

Reflection

Developing technologies are enabling robots to do more and more complex tasks and be used increasingly in workplaces. This may change job roles, with humans working alongside robots more.

Picture News



KS1 focus

What is a robot?



- Either draw a picture of a robot or close your eyes and imagine one. What does your robot look like? Does everyone's robot look the same? Discuss the similarities and differences.
- Have you ever played with any robot toys? Do you think they are actually robots or models of a robot? Why?
- Look at the images on resource 1. Which do you think are robots and which are not? Do any of them look like your robot?
- All of the images on resource 1 are robots! Does this surprise you? Do you know what a robot is?
- A robot is a machine that can carry out tasks or jobs automatically, without help from a person. They are usually programmed by a computer. Some robots are designed to look a little bit like humans, but most are not. Which of the robots on resource 1 look a bit like a human and which do not?
- For each robot on resource 1, discuss what you think its job might be. Which robot do you think mows someone's lawn? Can you spot the robots assembling a car? Which robot is exploring space?
- There are millions of robots used all around the world. They are used to build or make things, explore places that might not be safe for people and carry out jobs on places like farms. Can you think of any other jobs a robot does?
- Think about some of the jobs you do at school or home. Do you think a robot would be able to help? Make a list of things a robot could do.

Reflection

A robot can carry out jobs or tasks automatically. There are millions of robots across the world that help us.

Picture News



KS2 focus

What do we use robots for?



- A robot is an automatically operated machine or device. This means that it can carry out a complex series of actions without help from a person. It is usually programmed by a computer. Can you share any experiences you have had with robots?
- Robots are used for many different things in today's world. Do you know what we use robots for? Make a list.
- Look at resource 2, which shares some of the purposes a robot has. Discuss the job or role of each robot. What are the benefits of a robot carrying out the job rather than a person?
- Think about how useful each robot is. Which do you think is most/least valuable? Why? Discuss any alternatives if a robot wasn't used.
- Focus on the household robots. Have you ever come across a household robot? Would you like a robot to clean your floor and cut your grass? Would you like a robot as a companion or would you prefer an animal? Discuss the pros and cons of a household robot.
- Robots have been around for a long time but new discoveries and developments in science and technology mean they continue to evolve. What do you imagine robots of the future will look like? What do you think they will be able to do?
- Think about your typical week. Is there anything that you think a robot could do to make your life easier or save you time?

Reflection

There are many different jobs and tasks robots carry out in today's world. They are often used to help humankind by saving time or money or keeping people safer.



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

All robots are programmed with a clear sequence of instructions. We call this an algorithm.

- Have you ever created an algorithm?
- What did you program?
- Did your instructions work as you had planned?

Use this opportunity to explore programming a robot such as a floor robot. If you are unable to do this you could create an algorithm in a website such as Scratch. Share your algorithm with someone else.

- Can they predict what it will make your robot do?

Option 2

Digit is a 175cm-tall robot. It is capable of carrying items weighing up to 16kg and can work 16 hours a day.

- How tall are you?
- How much taller or shorter is Digit?
- What is the average number of hours someone works per week?
- How many hours can Digit work per week?
- Digit can carry 16kg. What is 16kg in grams?
- What weighs around 16kg?
- How heavy are items that you think a person is capable of lifting?

Think about some of the parcels and packages you may have delivered. You could use them to explore weight, volume and net!



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Create your own robot. You could use some of the images from resource 1 or your own experience to help. Think about:

- What job will your robot do?
- Will it be humanlike or not?
- What size and shape will it be?
- What colour will it be?
- How will it work?

Use pictures, words and sentences to describe your robot.

Option 2

Watch the video found in this week's news story. Focus on the movements Digit, the robot, makes whilst it is picking up and moving boxes in the Amazon warehouse.

- Can you reach up high to collect a box?
- Can you take that box three steps right?
- Can you pass that box to your friend?
- Can you put that box on the floor?
- Can you do a quarter turn with that box?
- Can you march like Digit?
- What other moves might Digit make?

Use these to inspire your very own Digit the Robot dance. Work as part of a group to design your choreography. Try to vary the level and direction of your moves.

Challenge – can you include unison (everyone performs the move at the same time) and canon (everyone performs the move one after the other)?



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

www.bbc.com/news/technology-67163680

This week's useful video

Digit the robot

www.youtube.com/watch?v=rnFZAB9ogEE

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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Great Sphinx of Giza 'origin story'



Pictured: The Great Sphinx of Giza. **Source:** Great Sphinx of Giza @Giza_Sphinx X page.

A recent study conducted at New York University (NYU) has suggested a new 'origin story' for the Great Sphinx of Giza. Scientists have concluded that an ancient statue of the mythical creature, with the head of a human and the body of a lion, could have been made by nature and then detailed by humans. Archaeologists have debated how the great structure was created for centuries. The Great Sphinx of Giza is a colossal 4,500-year-old limestone statue, positioned near the Great Pyramid in Giza, Egypt. The monument is one of the world's largest, measuring 73 metres long and 20 metres high. 'Our results provide a

simple origin theory for how Sphinx-like formations can come about from erosion,' explains Leif Ristorph, an associate professor at NYU. 'There are, in fact, yardangs in existence today that look like seated or lying animals, lending support to our conclusions. Our laboratory experiments showed that surprisingly Sphinx-like shapes can, in fact, come from materials being eroded by fast flows.' Yardangs are unusual rock formations found in deserts created by wind-blown dust and sand; the study was based on the scientists' abilities to replicate these shapes.

'12 Neighbours' project to cut homelessness

Canadian entrepreneur, Marcel LeBrun, is running a project called '12 Neighbours' to build communities of micro homes, where homeless people can get off the streets into a safe environment and also find work to help them rebuild their lives. Jobs will be available at the onsite coffee bar, teaching kitchen, and a silk printing business. After becoming a multi-millionaire when he sold his successful social media monitoring company, Marcel says he decided 'to put his money where his mouth is' and put his suggestions into practice! He is using his profit, along with grants and support from the provincial and national government, to build a community

of 99 micro homes for those who need it most in his hometown of Fredericton, the capital city of the Canadian province of New Brunswick. The tiny homes contain everything that is needed in a comfortable living space - a kitchen, living and bedroom areas, and a bathroom. They also have a small deck, solar panels on the roofs, and are painted in bright and cheerful colours. 'I see myself as a community builder, and really what we're doing here is not just building a little community, but we're building a community in a city, like how do we help our city be better?' said Marcel LeBrun.



Pictured: An example of the micro homes being built by the project. **Source:** The 12 Neighbours Community Facebook page.

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



Glowing project!



Pictured: New Zealand's bioluminescent glow-worms in a dark cave. **Source:** Canva.



Pictured: A glowing glow-worm. **Source:** Pete Cooper @PeteMRCooper X page.

Ecologist Pete Cooper's 'Lights of hope: rewilding glow-worms' project has been shortlisted as one of 22 native species projects run by The British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA) members for the Great British Wildlife Restoration Award! The charity shared on its website that this is the first competition of its kind. The award was inspired by David Attenborough's 'Wild Isles', and it aims to raise the profile of the native species conservation work being undertaken by zoo and aquarium conservationists. Pete's project is focused on helping the glow-worm numbers rise again in the UK. He is very passionate about his work as the insects' population has been severely reduced by many factors including, loss of their habitat (the larvae like to live under rocks on chalk or

limestone grassland) and increased light pollution (for example streetlights). Light pollution makes it more difficult for the male glow-worms to find the female, as the females use their bioluminescence (greeny-orange light produced by a chemical reaction in their bodies) to attract a mate and produce new baby glow-worms. Only the males have wings and only the females can glow! 'The fascination of glow-worms for me is that they are in effect magic,' says Pete Cooper, 'The glow-worm has been the symbol of the other world, of love, of hope, of rebirth, of simply the great mysteries of nature.'

Did you know that glow-worms aren't actually worms, they are beetles?
Do you know any facts about glow-worms?

Last week's topic:

Should 'super shoes' be allowed in races?



I think 'super shoes' should be allowed and be available to the public then it is fair for everyone.

Riley

Super shoes should not be allowed in races, as the people who race train a lot and shouldn't need them. Only people who do not race should use super shoes.

Khadiza

I think super shoes should not be allowed if everyone can't get it, It means other racers would have an advantage.

Janaya

Let us know what you think about this week's news?

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TAKEHOME



Are there some jobs
robots could never do?

Amazon

In the news this week

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Things to talk about at home ...

- > Do you think that robots will be used more and more in workplaces and homes? If so, what do you feel they will be used for? Why?
- > Make a list of jobs that you think robots would be good at and a list of those that you think people will always be needed for.

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

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