

Engagement & Active Participation

Open with a hook that gets every student thinking, then give them a choice board instead of a worksheet. The demo is a Grade 8 science lesson, so you can see it working at secondary level.



Scan to open this guide online

2 tools Hook, Choice board **~15 min** to try both **Where** Classroom › Gemini tab

BEFORE YOU START

1. Sign in to Google Classroom with your AISA account.
2. Pick one lesson you are teaching in the next two weeks. Have the topic and grade ready, and a Doc or slides from that unit in Drive if you have them.
3. Leave out student names and personal details. Describe the class in general terms, for example *mixed-ability, several EAL students*.

TOOL 1 · PLANNING

Craft a compelling hook

Describe your lesson and pick how you want students to engage. Gemini gives you six ready-to-run openers, each with materials and instructions. Choose one, adapt it, and the first five minutes of your lesson are sorted.

6 hooks per generation

Pick engagement styles or write your own

1

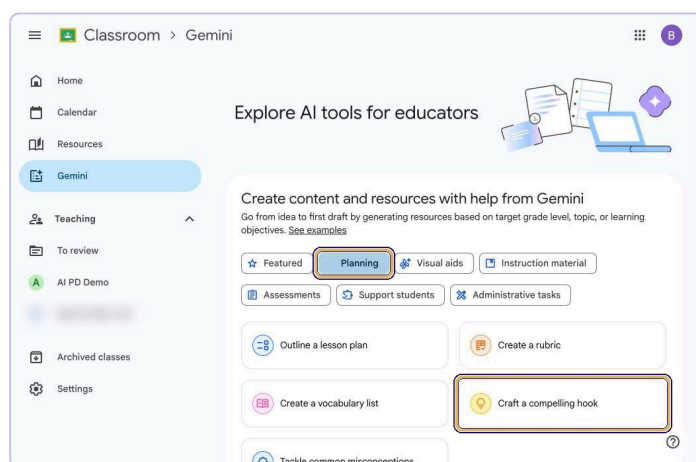
Open the hook tool

In Google Classroom, click **Gemini** in the left menu.

Click the **Planning** filter, then

Craft a compelling hook.

No Gemini tab? Let the AI & Innovation team know so your account can be checked.



2

Describe your lesson and class

- Type the **Target grade**, for example 8.
- In **Describe your lesson and class**, say what students will learn and who is in the room.
- Under **How do you want to engage your students?**, click one or more styles.

Our demo: *Grade 8 science lesson introducing chemical reactions and the law of conservation of mass. Mixed-ability class of 22, including several EAL students.* The more you say about the class, the better the hooks fit.

3

Add your own strategy, then generate

Click **Write custom engagement type** and type a strategy you already use, such as *Think-Pair-Share*, *Four Corners* or *Cold Call*. Then click **Generate**.

Use your house language. Naming a Teach Like a Champion or Kagan strategy gets you a hook built around a routine your students already know.

4

Read the six hooks

Each card is labelled with its engagement style and lists the materials and instructions. Scroll inside a card to read all of it, and down the page to see all six.

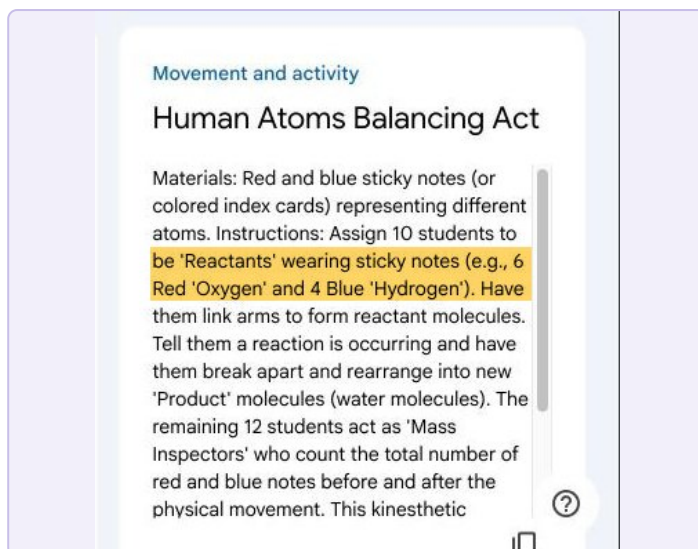
Use the copy icon at the bottom of a card to paste one hook into your planner or slides.

5

Check it before you use it

Hooks are first drafts. In our demo, the *Human Atoms* activity gave numbers that don't balance, which is the exact misconception the lesson is meant to fix.

- Check every fact, number and quantity.
- Check materials are safe and available in your room.
- Check timings: a hook should take five minutes, not twenty.



Movement and activity

Human Atoms Balancing Act

Materials: Red and blue sticky notes (or colored index cards) representing different atoms. Instructions: Assign 10 students to be 'Reactants' wearing sticky notes (e.g., 6 Red 'Oxygen' and 4 Blue 'Hydrogen'). Have them link arms to form reactant molecules. Tell them a reaction is occurring and have them break apart and rearrange into new 'Product' molecules (water molecules). The remaining 12 students act as 'Mass Inspectors' who count the total number of red and blue notes before and after the physical movement. This kinesthetic

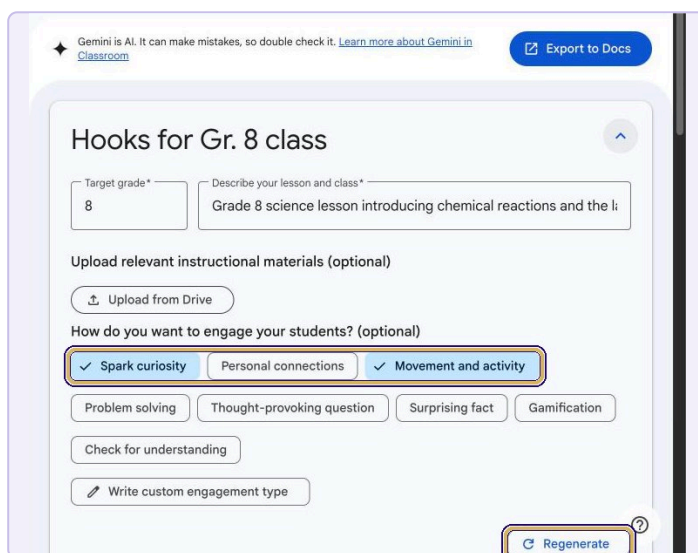
From our demo: 6 oxygen and 4 hydrogen can't make whole water molecules (H_2O needs two hydrogen for every oxygen).

6

Not quite right? Regenerate

Click the arrow at the top right of the **Hooks for Gr. 8 class** panel. Change the description or engagement styles, then click **Regenerate**.

Export first. Regenerating replaces all six hooks, so export the set you like before you try again. Your custom strategy isn't kept, so add it again.



Gemini is AI. It can make mistakes, so double check it. [Learn more about Gemini in Classroom](#) [Export to Docs](#)

Hooks for Gr. 8 class

Target grade * 8 Describe your lesson and class * Grade 8 science lesson introducing chemical reactions and the li

Upload relevant instructional materials (optional)

Upload from Drive

How do you want to engage your students? (optional)

✓ Spark curiosity Personal connections ✓ Movement and activity

Problem solving Thought-provoking question Surprising fact Gamification

Check for understanding

Write custom engagement type

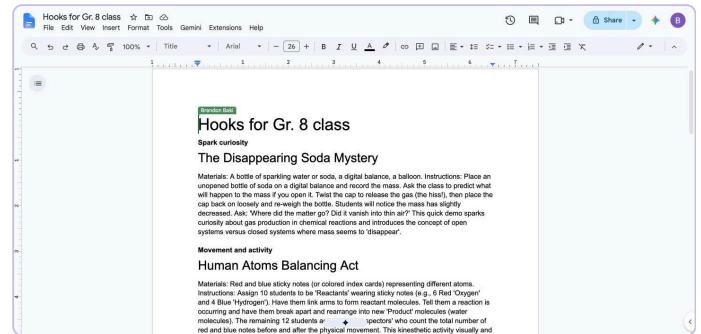
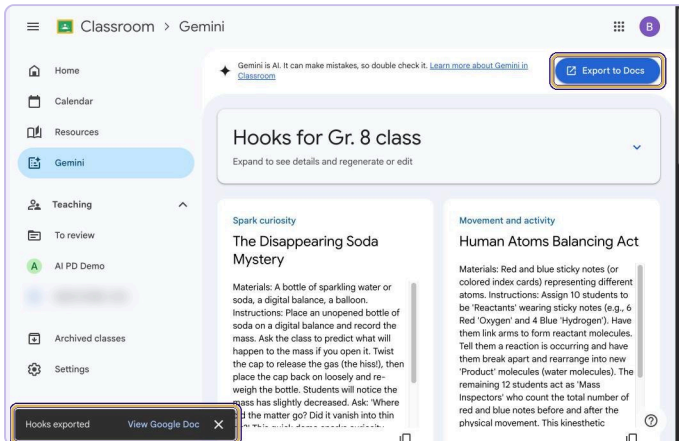
Regenerate

Export to Docs

Click **Export to Docs** at the top right. When *Hooks exported* appears at the bottom left, click **View Google Doc**.

Every hook is in one Doc with its style, title and instructions. Delete the ones you won't use and fix anything you found in step 5.

Hooks are for you, not students. There's no Add to class button for this tool. Paste the hook you chose onto your first slide or into your lesson plan.



The Doc is named after your grade and saved in your Drive.

TOOL 2 · INSTRUCTION MATERIAL

Build a choice board

Give a grade and a topic, agree the learning objectives, and Gemini builds six different activities that all hit the same objectives. Students choose how they show what they know, so the comic artist, the experimenter and the video maker are all working on the same science.

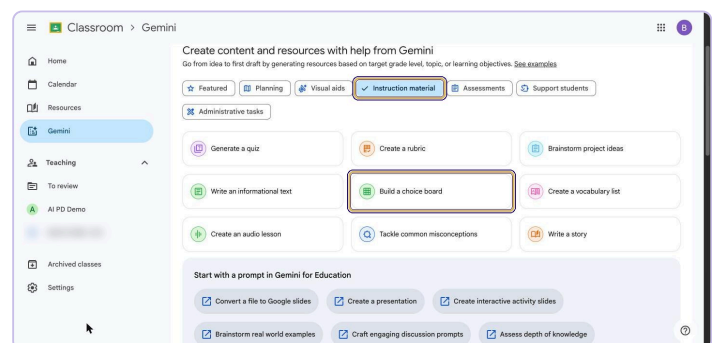
6 activities with time and materials

Objectives come first

Add to class as a draft

Open Build a choice board

On the Gemini tab, click the **Instruction material** filter, then **Build a choice board**.



2

Enter the grade and topic

Type a **Target grade** and a **Topic**. Click **Upload from Drive** to add your unit planner or slides so the activities match what you teach.

Then click **Generate learning objectives**.

Classroom > Gemini

Home
Calendar
Resources
Gemini
Teaching
To review
AI PD Demo
Archived classes
Settings

Build a choice board

Target grade *
8

Topic *
Chemical reactions and the law of conservation of mass

Upload relevant instructional materials (optional)
[Upload from Drive](#)
[Regenerate learning objectives](#)

Suggested learning objectives*

- Students will be able to model a chemical reaction using chemical equations to demonstrate that the total number of atoms for each element is conserved.
- Students will be able to conduct a simple laboratory experiment to measure and compare the total mass of reactants and products before and after a chemical reaction.

Always review and edit learning objectives to be specific and relevant to your class

3

Edit the objectives, then generate

Gemini suggests objectives in the **Suggested learning objectives** box. Click into the box and rewrite them in your own words, or paste in the objectives from your unit plan.

Click **Generate**.

This is the step that matters. Every activity on the board is built from these objectives. If they're vague, the board will be too. Use **Regenerate learning objectives** if they're off.

Classroom > Gemini

Home
Calendar
Resources
Gemini
Teaching
To review
AI PD Demo
Archived classes
Settings

8

Topic *
Chemical reactions and the law of conservation of mass

Upload relevant instructional materials (optional)
[Upload from Drive](#)
[Regenerate learning objectives](#)

Suggested learning objectives*

- Students will be able to model a chemical reaction using chemical equations to demonstrate that the total number of atoms for each element is conserved.
- Students will be able to conduct a simple laboratory experiment to measure and compare the total mass of reactants and products before and after a chemical reaction.

Always review and edit learning objectives to be specific and relevant to your class

[Generate](#)

4

Look over the board

You get six coloured activity cards. In our demo: a comic strip, a closed-system lab, 3D molecule models, a script and video, a simulation task and an Alka-Seltzer investigation.

Mix of modes. Check the board has written, practical, visual and digital options, so every student has a way in.

Classroom > Gemini

Home
Calendar
Resources
Gemini
Teaching
To review
AI PD Demo
Archived classes
Settings

Gemini is AI. It can make mistakes, so double check it. [Learn more about Gemini in Classroom](#)

[Export to Docs](#) [Add to class](#)

Choice board: Gr. 8 Chemical reactions ...

Expand to see details and regenerate or edit

Equation Balancing Comic Strip

Create a colorful four-panel comic strip illustrating a chemical reaction. Draw cartoon characters representing individual atoms (like Hydrogen and Oxygen) joining together to form molecules. Make sure your comic explicitly shows that no atoms are destroyed, only rearranged, and write out the balanced chemical equation at the bottom of the comic.

Baking Soda and Vinegar Closed System Lab

Conduct an experiment to test mass conservation. Measure the mass of a plastic bottle containing vinegar and a balloon filled with baking soda together on a scale. Mix the reactants by tipping the balloon contents into the bottle while keeping the balloon tightly sealed over the bottle mouth. Record the final mass after the reaction.

3D Physical Molecular Models

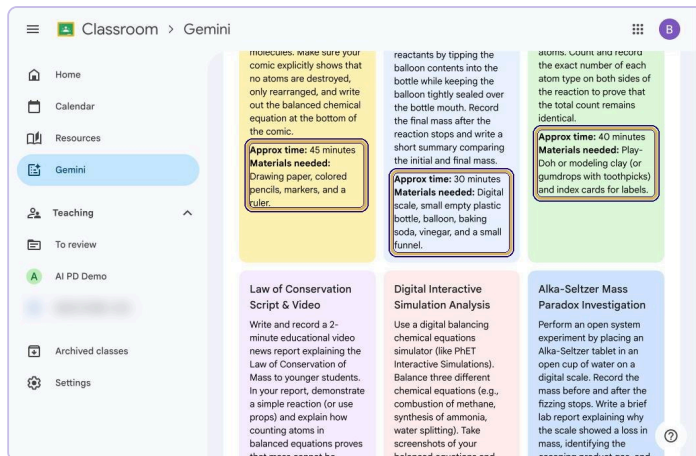
Build physical 3D models for the reactants and products of the synthesis reaction that creates water ($2H_2 + O_2 \rightarrow 2H_2O$). Use different colored materials to represent Carbon, Hydrogen, or Oxygen atoms. Count and record the exact number of each atom type on both sides of the reaction to prove that the total count remains identical.

5

Check time and materials

Each card ends with **Approx time** and **Materials needed**. In our demo these ran from 30 to 60 minutes, so this board covers a lesson or more, not a starter.

- Cut or swap any activity you can't resource, such as Alka-Seltzer or Play-Doh.
- Make the times roughly equal so no choice is the "easy" one.
- Check the science: one demo card mentions carbon atoms in a reaction that makes water.

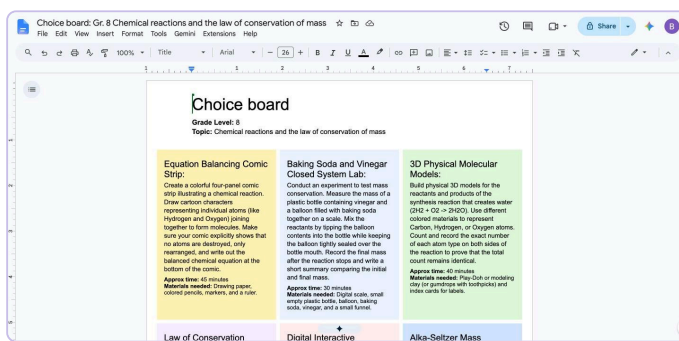
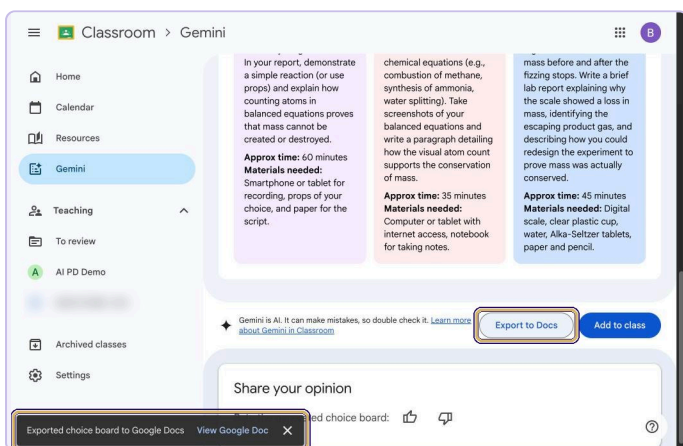


6

Export to Docs

Click **Export to Docs**. When *Exported choice board to Google Docs* appears, click **View Google Doc**. The Doc is named after your grade and topic and saved in your Drive.

Edit here first. Make your changes from step 5 in the Doc, then attach the Doc to an assignment yourself. That way students only see your checked version.



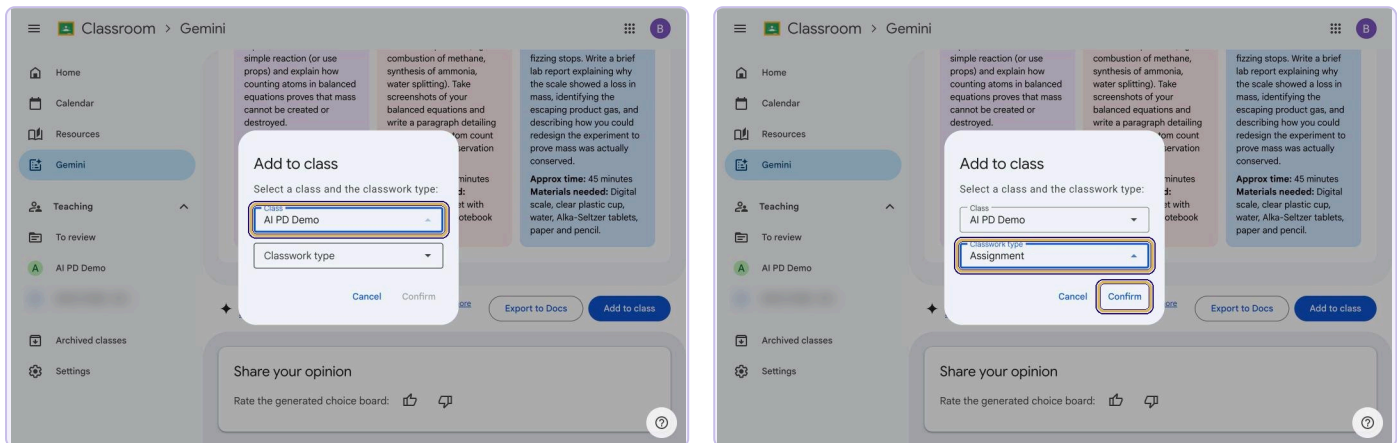
The Doc keeps the coloured grid, ready to edit or print.

Or send it straight to a class

Click **Add to class**. Choose your **Class**, set **Classwork type** to **Assignment**, then click **Confirm**.

Classroom makes a draft assignment with the board attached as a Google Doc. Nothing reaches students until you click **Assign**.

Tell students how to choose. Add instructions to the draft, such as *pick one activity*, or *any three in a row*, and how you will assess it.



YOUR STATION CHALLENGE · 10 MINUTES

Plan an active lesson for next week

1. Generate **hooks** for a lesson you teach next week. Add a strategy you already use as a custom engagement type.
2. Pick one hook, check it, and paste it onto your first slide.
3. Build a **choice board** for the same topic. Rewrite the objectives before you generate.
4. Cut any activity you can't resource, then use **Add to class** to save it as a draft. Nothing goes to students yet.

WAYS TO USE IT

Make it work in your subject

Arabic & Islamic Studies

Type *Think-Pair-Share* as a custom engagement type, or pick *Thought-provoking question* for higher-order thinking. Ask for a choice board option that builds discussion in pairs.

Maths

Choose *Problem solving* or *Gamification* for the hook. On the choice board, ask for one option that is a real-world task and one that is pure practice.

Humanities & English

Choose *Personal connections* or *Thought-provoking question*. Upload your unit text from Drive so the activities use it.

Check it

Check the content

Gemini can make mistakes. Both tools got some science wrong in our demo. Read every fact, number and quantity.

Check it's doable

Check timings, materials and safety. Swap anything you can't run in your room with your resources.

Keep the thinking

A fun activity should still meet the objective. Ask what students will learn, not only what they will do.

Protect student data

Describe your class in general terms. Don't paste student names, reports or personal details into any tool.

Gemini in Classroom	classroom.google.com/ai
Craft a compelling hook	classroom.google.com/ai/hg
Build a choice board	classroom.google.com/ai/chb
Google help: Learn about Gemini in Classroom	support.google.com/edu/classroom/answer/15410566?hl=en

AISA · AI & Innovation · AI PD Stations. Screenshots taken in a demo class in October 2026; Google may move buttons over time.