

"Assistive Technology Detectives!"

Objective:

Students will learn about different types of assistive technology and how these tools help people with disabilities live, learn, and play.

Activity 1:

Materials Needed:

- "Assistive Technology Detective" worksheet made up of picture or printed examples of assistive devices (e.g., wheelchair, hearing aid, Braille book, communication tablet, prosthetic limb, service dog gear)
- Scissors and glue (optional, if using a cut-and-paste version)
- Markers or crayons

Instructions:

1. Detective Briefing (Introduction, 5-7 minutes):

Explain that assistive technology is anything that helps people with disabilities do things they want or need to do. It can be high-tech like a talking computer, or low-tech like a pencil grip!

Examples you can mention:

- Wheelchairs help people move.
- Hearing aids help people hear sounds.
- Braille books help people who are blind read with their fingers.
- Communication boards help people who have trouble speaking
- Cell phones have accessibility settings to help people with different disabilities.

2. Detective Mission (Main Activity, 10 minutes):

Hand out the worksheets. Students must match or sort different assistive technologies to what they help with (mobility, hearing, vision, communication, daily living).

For example:

- **Wheelchair** → Mobility
- **Hearing Aid** → Hearing
- **Braille Book** → Vision
- **Speech Device** → Communication

(You can make this a simple matching line activity or cut-and-paste sorting task depending on the students' ages and abilities.)

3. Creative Challenge (Optional Extension, 10 minutes):

Ask students to draw their own "new invention" to help someone with a disability. What would it look like? What would it do? Encourage creative thinking!

Discussion Questions to Wrap Up:

- What assistive technology did you find most interesting?
- How do these tools make life better for people?
- Why is it important to make sure everyone can do the things they want to do?

Activity 2:

Materials Needed:

- Phone or tablet

Instructions:

- Go to the settings section and find accessibility features and show kids the different options of things that can be adjusted such as zoom, display and text size, audio descriptions, etc.