

Name _____



Microsoft

Microsoft and AI

Microsoft is one of the largest technology companies in the world and has become a major player in the artificial intelligence industry. The company has a long history of building software products, such as Windows and Office, but in recent years it has turned much of its focus toward AI. Microsoft is not only developing its own AI research but also forming partnerships with other organizations.

One of the most significant partnerships is with **OpenAI**. Microsoft has invested billions of dollars into OpenAI and provides the computing power that helps train large AI models like ChatGPT. In return, Microsoft integrates OpenAI's tools into its own products. For example, AI features known as **Copilot** are now built into Microsoft Office tools like Word, Excel, and Outlook, helping users write text, analyze data, and manage emails.

Beyond its partnership with OpenAI, Microsoft also operates its own research labs. These labs focus on advancing natural language processing, computer vision, and responsible AI. Microsoft has also been active in discussions about AI policy and ethics, often calling for regulations that encourage innovation while protecting society from harm.

Through its products, research, and partnerships, Microsoft has positioned itself as one of the most influential companies shaping how AI is created, used, and governed.

Higher-Order Thinking Questions (Critical Response)

1. Why do you think Microsoft chose to partner with OpenAI instead of only building its own AI systems? What advantages does this strategy give the company?
2. Copilot tools bring AI directly into Word, Excel, and Outlook. How might this change the way people work or learn? Give at least one positive and one negative possibility.
3. Microsoft calls for AI regulations that both encourage innovation and protect society. Why might it be difficult to balance these two goals?
4. Based on the passage, do you think Microsoft has more influence on AI through its products or through its policies? Explain your reasoning with evidence.
5. Imagine you are in charge of Microsoft's AI strategy. What would you focus on next: expanding Copilot features, funding more AI research, or influencing AI regulations? Defend your choice.