

The World of the Internet

40 minutes

Digital Media Literacy

WHAT THIS LESSON DOES

Get ready to explore the vast network that connects the world! In this lesson, you'll understand what the Internet is, how it works, and its everyday uses. Follow the steps to learn about messaging, sharing information, and more.

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO

- Understand the concept of the Internet, its history, and its significance in the modern world.
- Comprehend how the Internet works, including the process of sending and receiving information.
- Explore the various uses of the Internet, including messaging, information sharing, and accessing websites.
- Learn about the structure and purpose of URLs and how they are used to access websites.
- Recognize the importance of responsible and respectful behavior when using the Internet.
- Appreciate the role of the Internet in connecting people globally and facilitating information exchange.

BEFORE THE LESSON

- Open and test the step 2 video in advance and check the sound works, ideally on a large screen so the class can watch together.
- Have a device per pupil or per pair ready and logged in, with the site loaded for the matching interactive in step 7.
- Check your school filter does not block any site you plan to show live, and have a safe example URL ready to point at.

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HOW THE LESSON RUNS

Introduction
How the Internet Works Video
Exploring the Internet
Sending Messages
Sharing Messages
Understanding URLs and Accessing Websites
Internet Matching Activity
The Purpose of the Internet
Reflection

TEACHING MOVES

- 1. Introduction. Ask the class what devices in their home connect to the Internet before you read anything. Gather answers to anchor the idea that the Internet links many kinds of device.
- 2. How the Internet Works Video. Play the 3:29 video on the big screen for everyone together. Pause after the section on dangers and ask what safe behaviour they already know.
- 3. Exploring the Internet. Draw out activities pupils already do online. Keep it to what the step lists rather than opening any of the named sites live.
- 4. Sending Messages. Trace the journey of a message from typing to arriving with Alex. Stress it is broken up and sent across the network, not carried whole.
- 5. Sharing Messages. Contrast a private message with sharing to a website or social platform: once shared widely, others can see and copy it.
- 6. Understanding URLs and Accessing Websites. Use the address as a place comparison. Point at a real URL on screen and name each part so pupils see the structure.
- 7. Internet Matching Activity. Let pupils drag descriptions to terms, then click Check Matches. Circulate and ask them to say the meaning aloud rather than guessing by shape.
- 8. The Purpose of the Internet. Land the two big purposes: connecting people and sharing information quickly. Ask for one example of each from their own lives.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

- Pupils think a message travels in one whole piece straight to their friend. Return to the step 4 journey and explain the message is split into data packets that travel separately and are reassembled at the other end.
- Pupils confuse a private message with sharing something publicly online. Use step 5 to distinguish a message sent to one person from information posted where many can see it, and why that difference matters for safety.
- Pupils treat a URL as just a name rather than an address that locates a specific page. Reuse the real-world address comparison and show how changing part of the URL points the browser somewhere different.

DIFFERENTIATION

- Emerging: Pair the pupil with a partner for the matching interactive and let them talk each match through before dragging.
- Developing: Ask them to explain back what a URL is and point out its parts on a live example, so understanding is not just recall.