

How the Internet Works: Browsers, URLs, Basics

60 minutes

ICT1: Introduction to the computer and word processing

Outcome M1.U3.2

Outcome M1.U3.1

WHAT THIS LESSON DOES

Explore how the internet functions as a network of networks and what browsers do. Learn to read URLs, check HTTPS and connection icons for safety, and manage tabs, bookmarks and history. Bookmark three project sites, screenshot the bookmarks bar, and save a Browser Tour page in your portfolio.

CURRICULUM OUTCOMES

Outcome	What the specification asks for
M1.U3.2	Use a web browser and manage settings.
M1.U3.1	Understand the concepts and associated risks of the internet and the World Wide Web.

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO

- Explain the internet as a network of networks and what a browser does
- Read URLs, domains, HTTPS and the connection icon for basic trust cues
- Use tabs, bookmarks, history and basic browser settings
- Bookmark three project-useful sites and screenshot the bookmarks bar

BEFORE THE BELL

- Review the key concepts table and common issues ahead of time.
- Confirm browsers work and whether the room defaults to Edge, Chrome or Safari.
- Check screenshot shortcuts are allowed on student devices.
- Have a filled sample 02_browser_tour ready to project for 60 seconds before Independent Practice.
- Confirm each machine has a working browser and internet access. Students need their Project_Portfolio folder with the 02_research sub-folder. If missing, create both before the tour. Pre-show the bookmarks/favourites bar on the room image if possible.
- Have the concept diagram ready on the projector. Print or open the matching worksheet for a 3-minute check after key concepts.
- Working browser and internet. Bookmarks bar turnable on if hidden. Know whether the room defaults to Edge, Chrome or Safari.
- Know the room screenshot method. Confirm clipboard paste works into Word Online or Google Docs.
- Students need Project_Portfolio / 02_research, clipboard or screenshot file, and Word Online or Google Docs. Leave the sample layout checklist visible.

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HOW THE LESSON RUNS

5 min	introduction	Introduction
7 min	content	Key concepts
12 min	activity	Step-by-step task
3 min	content	Common issues
5 min	activity	Capture evidence
18 min	activity	Independent practice
5 min	content	Reflection
5 min	summary	Lesson summary

TEACHING MOVES

- Model reading a sample URL on the board before the browser tour.
- Send Chrome-on-Windows students to the Chrome branch immediately.
- Lead a whole-class discussion on what a secure connection does and does not mean.
- Remind students to select bookmarks linked to their project needs.
- If the bookmarks bar is policy-locked, accept three listed URLs plus address-bar screenshots.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

- Believing a padlock or secure icon means content is reliable, clarify it secures only the connection.
- Chrome students hunting for a classic padlock, point them to the site/page-info icon.
- Bookmarks bar hidden, guide to Ctrl+Shift+B or Cmd+Shift+B first.
- Misidentifying the domain in a URL, refer back to the key concepts table.
- Screenshot of the whole desktop with no bar visible, re-snip the bar only.

DIFFERENTIATION

- Support: The browser tour steps and the build steps both stay on screen throughout, so for students who lose their place, sit beside them and read the current step aloud rather than handing out a separate sheet.
- Extension: Ask students to include a bookmark from a government domain and note its advantages.
- Support: Allow paired work for those struggling with the screenshot or with Independent Practice.