



Purple Mash Computing Scheme Networks

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Overview

This unit allows children to learn more about what networks are, what they do and how they connect devices. Children also consider the safety aspects of networks, including the possible positive and negatives uses of networks.

Key Learning

- To understand what a computer network is and identify examples of networks at home, school and in the wider world.
- To understand the difference between the internet and the World Wide Web and explore the services they provide.
- To explore how the internet can be used for communication and collaboration, and how to do this safely and respectfully.
- To explore who is in charge of the internet and how rules and website blocking can affect people, society and online platforms.

Knowledge Organiser and Learning Mat

These resources can be used to support learning across the unit.

- [Knowledge Organiser](#)
- [Learning Mat](#)

Concept Map and Quiz

Use these resources to gauge children's understanding before or after the unit has been taught.

- [Concept Map](#)
- [Quiz](#)

Lesson 1: What is a Network?

Aim

- To understand what a computer network is and identify examples of networks at home, school and in the wider world.

Success Criteria

- I know what a computer network is.
- I can recognise different types of networks.
- I can explain how devices connect and communicate on a network.

Preparation

- Cut up the **Network Labels** - one set per group of five.
- Gather 5 tennis balls to act as 'Data Packets'.
- (Optional Extension) Set the **Network Types Quiz** as a 2Do.

Please find all lesson resources below.

Resources

- [Slideshow - Lesson 1](#)
- [Network Labels](#)
- [Network Types Quiz](#)

Lesson 2: The Internet and the World Wide Web

Aim

- To understand the difference between the internet and the World Wide Web and explore the services they provide.

Success Criteria

- I can explain what the internet is and how it works.
- I know the World Wide Web is a service on the internet.
- I can explain how the internet helps people communicate and work together.

Preparation

- Gather a class set of whiteboards.
- (Optional Extension) Set the **Internet and World Wide Web Quiz** as a 2Do.

Please find all lesson resources below.

Resources

- [Slideshow - Lesson 2](#)
- [Internet and the World Wide Web Quiz](#)

Lesson 3: Communicating and Collaborating Online

Aim

- To explore how the internet can be used for communication and collaboration, and how to do this safely and respectfully.

Success Criteria

- I can identify different ways to communicate online.
- I understand basic rules for respectful online communication.
- I can recognise both the benefits and potential risks of online communication.

Preparation

- Save the file **Online Communication** into the class folder. In the slideshow, there are instructions for the children on how to make this a collaborative document that children can contribute to in small groups.
- (Optional Extension) Print and cut out the **Online Behaviour Scenarios** cards for sorting.

Please find all lesson resources and important teaching note below.

Resources

- [Slideshow - Lesson 3](#)
- [Online Communication](#)
- [Online Behaviour Scenarios](#)

Teaching Notes

In order for children to be able to make their own documents collaborative, the e-safety settings must be changed by the Purple Mash School Admin to allow pupils to create collaborative work. This will be found in Admin Settings/Settings/E-Safety tab and can only be changed by the Purple Mash School Admin.

Lesson 4: Who Controls the Internet?

Aim

- To explore who is in charge of the internet and how rules and website blocking can affect people, society and online platforms.

Success Criteria

- I can explain who controls access to the internet and why.
- I understand what censorship is and can give examples.
- I understand how internet rules can help or harm different people.

Preparation

- Gather a class set of whiteboards and pens.
- Print off **the Censorship and Filtering Debate** scenarios (one copy per small group).

Please find all lesson resources below.

Resources

- [Slideshow - Lesson 4](#)
- [Censoring and Filtering Debate](#)

Assessment

The following information is an exemplar of what a child at an expected level would be able to demonstrate when completing this unit with additional exemplars to demonstrate how this would vary for a child with emerging or exceeding achievements.

Emerging

- Children show a simple understanding of the purpose of a network. They need support to explain networks in more specific detail. For example, distinguishing between a LAN and a WAN. Their understanding of the internet compared with the World Wide Web is limited without the scaffolding of examples to use. They are developing their understanding of safe, respectful online communication and can be supported by having a trusted adult to talk through specific scenarios with.

Expected

- Children can explain the function of networks and the difference between a LAN and a WAN with relevant examples. They understand the difference between the internet and the World Wide Web and can name some services as examples of each. Children can describe safe and respectful communication online and explain why filtering and censorship are used. They can confidently use examples to support their understanding of online collaboration and safety.

Exceeding

- Children demonstrate confident knowledge of networks and can explain complex ideas clearly, including a LAN, a WAN and the role of the internet and the World Wide Web. They apply their understanding to real-life examples and offer thoughtful insights into online services. Their awareness of online safety, communication, and the impact of censorship is strong, showing mature reasoning and the ability to reflect critically.