

I am a...
DigITal
Explorer!

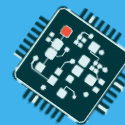


Imagination

Curiosity

Creativity

Problem solving



Let's explore
DigITal Technology
together!



What is Digital Technology?

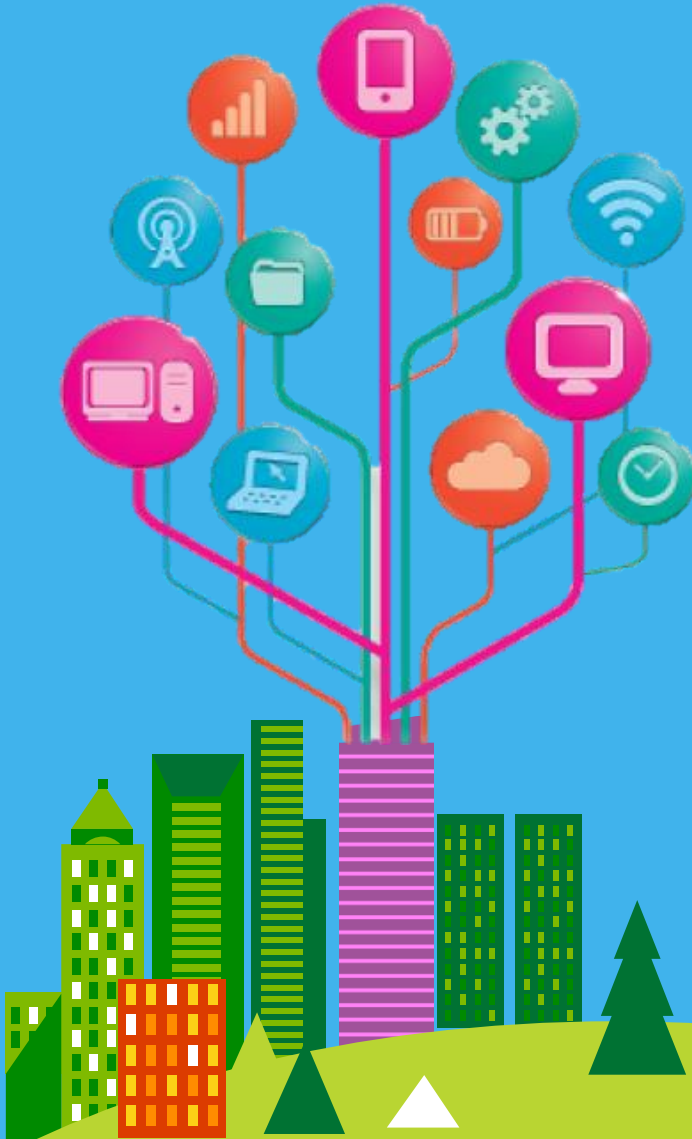
Digital technology is Scotland's fastest-growing sector for inward investment with centres of excellence for collaboration across cyber security, data, fintech, games, global business services, software and IT, space, and waste and wastewater technology.

Scotland's future will be shaped in a digital world. It's a world in which data and digital technologies are transforming many elements of our nation and our lives - people, place, economy and government.

Learning about the digital world as a family is fun! If you would like to share your experiences or photos of you having fun as a digital explorer, you can contact us at parentzone@educationscotland.gov.scot

There are many exciting digital jobs in Scotland and around the world!





Hi, I'm Virtual Veronica and I became a digital explorer because I want to see how technology can help us to reach for the stars while caring for our planet!

Hello, I'm Coding Christopher and I became a digital explorer because I want to help people in their everyday lives by creating new, useful programmes for work and at home.

Join us and our friends on a journey to the digital world!



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Cyber security

- posting a picture
- perfect passwords

You
are
Here!



The workbook is split into sections depending on the age and stage of your child. So, look around, find out, ask questions and try things out together and see what happens. Digital technology is fun for all the family!

Fun with Younger children

Computers
in the
World

Computers are
all around us, in
our homes,
shops, hospitals,
banks and many,
more places.

1. Can you think about how computers are used and help us at work and at play? Work together to identify some of the uses of computers in the following places:

- Supermarket
- Home
- Shops
- School
- Bank
- Traffic lights



- Farm
- Police Station
- Hotel
- Hospital



2. Draw a picture showing how some of these people use computers and technology at their work.

Want to Learn More? Have a look at this:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/nina-and-the-neurons-computers-song>



AlgoRhythm

Computers work by following a set of instructions. We call this set of instructions an algorithm. Can you say this word algorithm and share this new word?

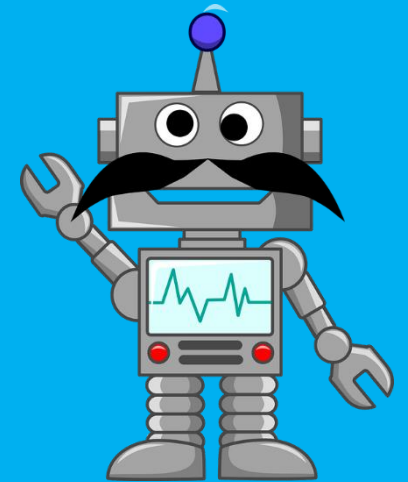


1. Computer games follow a precise algorithm (set of instructions) and these algorithms are made by humans. A recipe is an algorithm. Can you think of algorithms that you use in the world around you? Can you think of other algorithms?
2. Let's create our own algorithm! You are going to create an algorithm (set of instructions) for a new dance and you will be able to teach it very quickly. Make sure your algorithm is correct at every step!

Try this dance algorithm to help get you started.

1. Stand straight and look forward
2. Lift both hands above your head
3. Turn a complete circle clockwise
4. Lower your hands together until out in front of you
5. Take 1 step to the left
6. Put your hands by your side
7. Take 1 step to the right.

Was the algorithm easy to follow? Can you design a dance and then share it with someone in your family or friends to see if they can follow the steps? What happens if they don't follow your algorithm exactly?



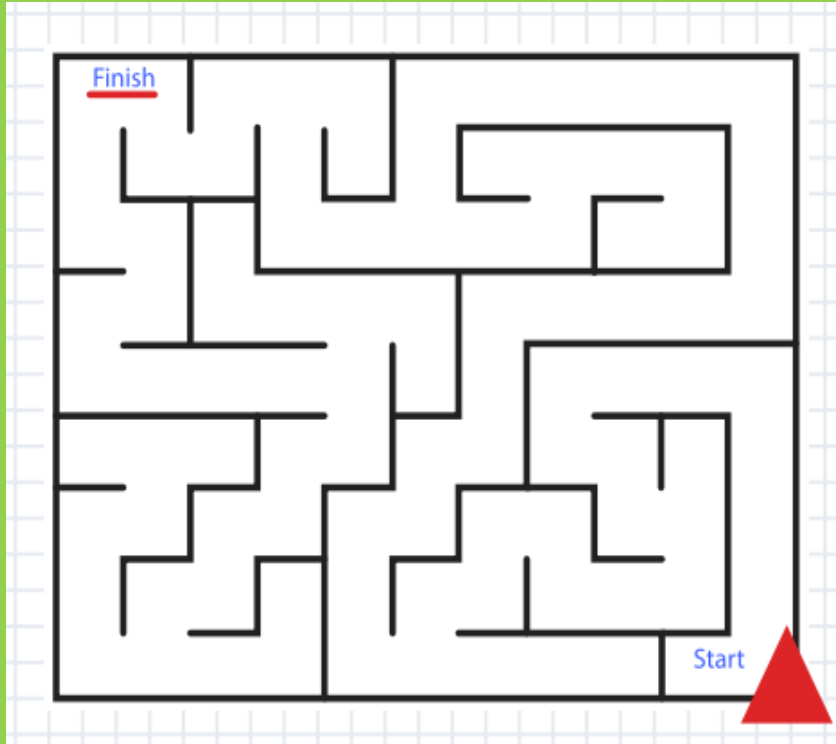
Maze
master

Getting out
of a maze
needs
instructions.
Can you
create an
algorithm?



Draw a maze, it can be as easy or difficult as you like. Can you now draw an algorithm using arrows (up, down, left, right) to escape the maze?

Here is an example showing the first 7 steps. Can you complete the steps? If you make a mistake can you fix it?



Can you make changes to your algorithm to find a faster route out of the maze?

Try and give your algorithm to someone else, see if they can use it to get out of the maze!

Could you write or draw an algorithm for something else? For example could you write or draw an algorithm to help someone know how to brush their teeth or make a paper aeroplane?

Website planning

What you'll need

➤ Paper

➤ Arts and crafts

➤ Coloured pens



1. Think about creating a website and what you would like to be on it. Is it somewhere to review the games you like? Talk about the toys you play with? Share the types of food you like to eat?
2. Once you have an idea of what you want to add to your website think of what you want to call it. Write it down on a piece of paper at the top then split your paper into sections
3. Use the list of things you have already thought about including on your website to populate the sections. So if it's toys, where will you put your favourite toy, what colour will it be?
4. Use different colours, glitter, buttons etc. to enhance your paper website so that it draws peoples eyes when they see it. Remember to ask an adult to help you if you are using scissors and glue!
5. Once you have finished your sections show your family and friends to see what they think. Write down any suggestions they make so that when you create an online version in the next section you already have some market research data to inform the next section

For more information go to: [What are digital photos and videos? - BBC Bitesize](#)

Pixel art

What you'll need

- Paper, Rubber, Pens

Instructions:

- Using the lines on the paper draw the outline of what you would like your pixel art to be. This could be an item like a flower or an animal or a character. Make sure its lots of little boxes!
- Then colour one square at a time to make your pixel art.

Challenge yourself - Google pixel art Sonic or pixel art Mario

- Can you recreate Mario using pixel art on paper?
- Can you recreate Sonic using pixel art on paper?

Online Pixel art

- Go to - <https://www.pixilart.com/> and start drawing
- Practice drawing some shapes to get used to it
- Use the tools on the left side to change colour and shapes
- Can you recreate your drawing digitally?



Pixel art is a digital art form that is still used in games today. Mostly notable in Minecraft.

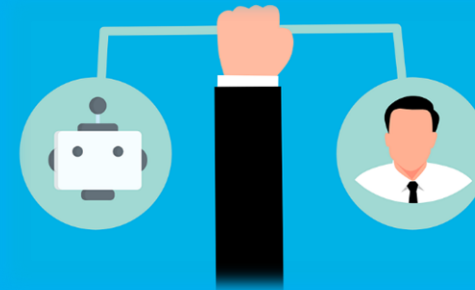
Want to learn more?

Go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTw59QE_IW4



Doing things digitally

1. Can you ask a family member or friend to tell you what their job or hobby is?
2. Ask if they use a computer and/or a digital device, like a phone or tablet, at work or for their hobby and how it helps them.
3. Use the information you have collected to create a fact file about how computers, and digital devices can be used for jobs and hobbies. Look in magazines or books about jobs to create a fact file to show some of the different jobs people do with computers at work and share with your family.
4. Can you imagine any awesome ways in which computers and/or digital devices could make some jobs that people do easier and better?



Want to learn more about how people use computers at work?

Go to: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z4gwhyrc/articles/zcmvvcw>



Internet Safety

When children encounter things online that they aren't sure about they often have an uncomfortable feeling. When this happens they need to speak to someone who can help them.

Being safe online is very important for everyone, especially children and young people.. What should you do when something doesn't feel right...

1. With your child draw a small outline of a person on a piece of paper. Tell them that this represents them.
2. Using the outline that you have drawn ask your child to add in things that they feel when they see or hear something that they are not sure of.

Examples may include:
Butterflies in the tummy
Shaky hands and legs
Feeling confused
Crying
Moving about a lot in panic



3. Talk to your child about how we have the same reactions in our brain and body when something upsets is in the real world or online.
4. Make a list with your child of the people that they can speak to if they see something that makes them feel uncomfortable online and need help.



Hello, my name is Nicola and I work with Scottish Care.



I am a Digital Leader. That means I work with others to help them to understand and benefit from technology and digital. We use technology and digital devices every day - apps, gaming, smart TVs, Voice Assistants and Virtual Reality etc. Technology is changing the way we do things like shopping, and messaging friends.

I became a Digital Leader because I like to understand how things work so that I can help them to work better for other people. When I was at school, I was very creative, and my best subjects were Art and English. Being good at Art and English helped me to be good at communicating with people, using images and graphics as well as writing. My job is to help other people think about how using technology and digital could help them with what they do. I help people to improve what they do by changing the way they do things. This usually involves working with lots of people who all want to make something better and helping them to work as a team.

I need to make sure that people who are supported and cared for in the community and the people who work with them know how technology and digital can help. The people I work with help other people who need care and support to live full and joyful lives. There are thousands of people in Scotland of all ages who rely on this. Technology and Digital can help to improve the experience of people by giving them more control and options.

I am always looking for new ways of doing things and innovative technologies and thinking about how we will be doing things in the future.

If you want to find out more about Digital Leaders go to: [Find out more about Digital Leaders Programme in Scotland \(digileaders.com\)](https://www.digileaders.com)

Older and bolder

What
computer
are you
wearing?

With a friend, family member or parent research what examples of computer technology can be worn. For example, a fitness tracker or maybe something that is used to keep a check on your health?

After you have done this, list the top three items that you think are the best and share this with friends and/or family members.

What type of technology do you currently wear? These are all computers that we can carry around with us. Why not make a list and compare it with family members. Which ones are the same, different. Why do you think that is?

Computers that you use are no longer great big machines that take up lots of space on a table - just think of tablets, smartphones, watches or fitness trackers.

The links below may give you some more ideas
Wearable technology - BBC News
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/cngjnjlwr13t>



Digital story

Think about a journey you have taken recently, such as a holiday or a trip to visit a place or see someone close.

Design and create a digital presentation, movie or animation that tells a story of your journey. You will have to ensure the algorithm for your presentation (steps in how you describe the journey) or animation is in the correct order to ensure others can follow it.

If you have taken photos of your journey you will have to organise these photos into the correct order. This can be done by date or time that the pictures were taken, or by location.

You may want to think of some music that brings back memories of the journey and add this to the finished story.

Share the finished story with family and friends to retell the steps of your journey to see if they can recreate your journey algorithm.



Creating a digital presentation using pictures and text helps others to understand what you are trying to tell them! You can do it using anything also from phones to laptops.

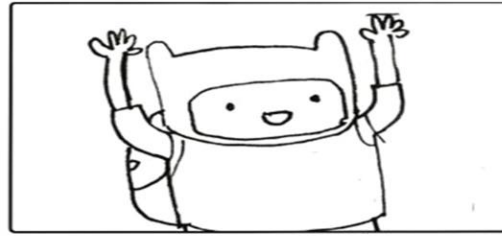


Make a
game

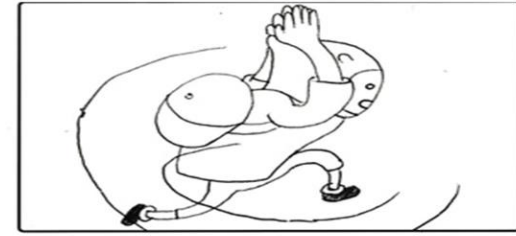
Draw and create a storyboard of your design for a game. This should include your characters, music, backgrounds etc. and will let you see the various levels and how it is played.



Pen: Alrite, there you go
Princess. You are free.
P B: Oh thank you brave knight!



Pen: I'm not a knight!
I'm a shark!



Pen: Vroooom!

Think about what rules your game needs. How many lives do you get? Will there be different levels of difficulty? How many players can play?

If you do have access to a computer or tablet you may want to try out your game ideas using coding software such as Scratch.

Can you
think of the
next wacky
computer
game that
will be on
everyone's
phone or
tablet?



Here are some ideas for you to get started with your game designs.

Code Club Project game <https://codeclubprojects.org/en-GB/scratch/ghostbusters/>

Code Club Animation <https://codeclubprojects.org/en-GB/scratch/lost-in-space/>



Algorithm treasure hunt

Find an object that you can hide, make it something that is unique like a book, ornament, toy etc. Make sure that the person hiding the object doesn't tell anyone else where they are hiding it.

Here's an example:

- Take 10 steps STRAIGHT
- Turn RIGHT and take 5 big hops
- Turn LEFT and crawl 2 times
- Look UNDERNEATH the object in front of you!

Make an algorithm (set of instructions) that can show someone how to find it. Make sure they are clear and in the correct order otherwise it won't work!

We use algorithms all the time, they are just a fancy word for instructions! Check out my wall for instructions.

Did the instructions work and everything go correctly? If not this is a bug! How can you fix it?







Build a Robot

What you'll need

- Kitchen foil 
- Toilet paper roll 
- Buttons (for the eyes)
- Dice
- Straws 
- Paper
- Glue
- Pipe cleaner 
- Felt tip pen

Instructions:

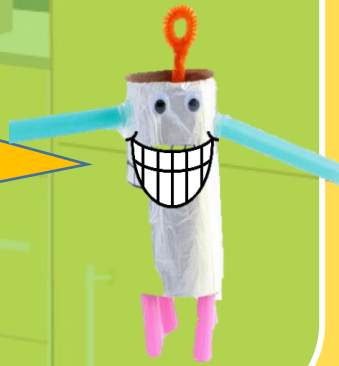
1. Cut some straws into arms and legs and make a face from paper with a marker and add eyes.
2. Twist a pipe cleaner into an antenna then wrap the kitchen foil round the toilet paper roll
3. On a piece of paper, write the code for building the robot. Each number needs to be assigned to a different robot part.

	Body		Eyes
	Antenna		Arms
	Mouth		Legs

4. Now roll the dice and glue the appropriate part to the robot.
5. You can also take turns rolling the dice!

Remember to ask an adult to help you with cutting the kitchen foil!

Talk about what each part of the robot would do and why the robot would need these parts to work. What name did you give your robot friend?



Can you tell me...

Millions of people go online every single day including friends and family. However, sometimes we speak to people we don't know very well or who are complete strangers. When talking with strangers we need to know what is ok to share with them.



What you'll need

- A list of questions below, such as the ones below:

Instructions:

Ask your child to pretend that you are someone online, that they have never met face to face, and you are going to ask them questions. This challenge is for your child to only answer what is safe to share online. (Cover the answers)

1. What is your favourite colour? - Safe
2. What school do you go to? - Not Safe
3. Do you like to watch YouTube/TV? - Safe
4. What street do you live in? - Not Safe
5. Do you have a pet? - Safe
6. What is your name? - (First Name = Safe) (Full Name = Not Safe)
7. Do you live near a park? - Safe
8. What is the name of the park? - Not Safe

You can do the same activity again by getting your child to ask the questions and vice versa. Why not include other family members?



Discuss with your child why it's not a good idea to share personal information online freely. What kind of information is ok to share? If you are not sure, what do you do?

Searching, processing, and managing information responsibly

Even though there are many websites that are genuine and safe, there are others that are fake and try to copy real ones. This happens because the people who create these fake websites are looking to get money or information.



Sometimes fake/unsafe websites have easy to spot signs including:

- Website names spelt incorrect
- Pictures look blurry/off centre/not clear
- Spelling on the website is wrong in many places
- There isn't an address, phone number, email address etc. to contact someone
- Clicking buttons takes you out of the website to other places
- Lots and lots of adverts all over the site
- There is no tick/padlock beside the website name
- Something seems too good to be true

However, at times it can be harder to spot a fake website. Using the link below see if you and your child can figure out which ones are real and which are fake.

<https://www.whiteboardblog.co.uk/2018/03/fake-websites-to-help-teach-web-literacy/>

As you go through the links have a discussion about:

- How easy is it to spot some of the fake websites?
- Why do you think people make fake websites?
- What should you do if you think a website is fake?



Hi, my name is Alan and I work for a video games company in Dundee!



I am a Technical Artist and Animator, and I help make art for video games. The art team makes all the characters, creatures, vehicles and worlds that you see in a game, and a technical artist will prepare so that the animators can bring them to life. If you think of the animators as puppeteers, I'm the person who makes the digital puppets work for them.

I became a game artist because I loved making real models of cars, trains, planes and other things, I enjoyed playing games, and I've been interested in computers for many years. Working as a game artist is very like making real models but on a computer instead. I was always quite good with maths and science, and these are important in my job as a technical artist because I also work with programmers to make sure everything the art team makes will work properly in the game.

Making games can be really interesting and fun, and since game makers are constantly adding new features, there are always new things to learn. Part of my job is to find out how these new features are made and how they work, so my company can use those features too if we want. If you have a curious mind, it can be a really satisfying job, especially when people enjoy playing the game you've made. It's a great feeling watching people having fun playing the game we've worked hard to make as a team.

There are lots of opportunities in different fields for anyone who wants to make games. Most people think that Games companies just have programmers and artists, but we also need people from different skillsets. Designers are employed to develop ideas for game worlds and how the game plays. Audio people make the music and sound effects, and some are even employed to test the games before they are put on sale so we can fix anything that isn't working right.

I have worked with various sized companies making all sorts of games. Every game I've made has had its own challenges and problems, but it's always satisfying to work with other enthusiastic and smart people on a team project, and learn new things as I go. Since games can sometimes take years to make, seeing it finally completed and ready for people to play is a great feeling for everyone who has been involved in making it.

If you want to find out more about Digital Leaders go to: <https://digileaders.com/region/scotland/>

Amaze your friends

Make an animation

Why not try some
of our animation
challenges below:

1. Can you create an animation where you do a magic trick and make someone disappear? Hint: you could have two people at the start and then click your fingers then take a photo without one of the people in it to make it look like they have disappeared.
2. Can you create an animation where you make a piece of paper do a tour of your house or garden?
3. Can you create an animation of a piece of paper coming together to make a flower? - hint you could use different coloured paper or draw a flower one line at a time and take a photo to create a flower.

Stop Motion Studio

Promo video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gJhUupnVbkE>

Stop Motion Studio Tutorials - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-DzV3-1lnTQ&list=PLhekTmFb9ZP6qSBbmjmB6ma2JSu4qmvna>

LifeLapse -

Stop Motion Tutorials - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LwreN_eRfXk&list=PL5kY_ZmWSB6vj-2IwDXRmcG3zJpAoPnmw

What you'll need

- Mobile phone
- Download free app (Stop Motion Studio or LifeLapse can be used)
- Items you would like to make come to life (this could be anything you want)

Instructions:

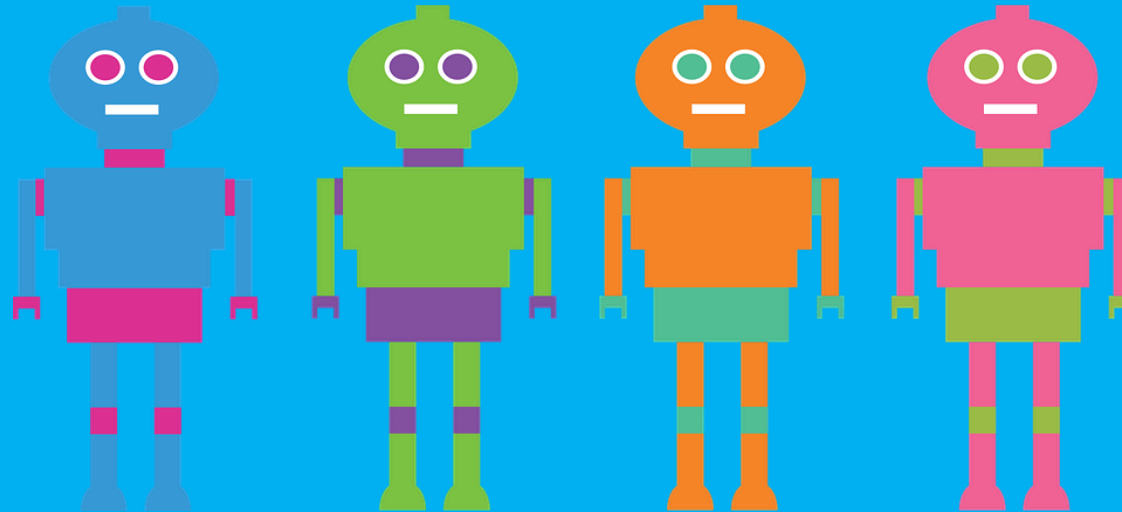
1. Decide on a short story line.
2. What item are you going to use? Where is this going to take place? Where is the item going to start and finish?
3. Place the item in one spot then take a photo, then move it slightly and take another photo. Keep repeating this until the item has got to the place you want it to finish. This may result in hundreds of photos.
4. Once you are finished you can select the play button and see your very own animation.



Rise of the robots

Robots are increasingly used in industry but are also beginning to be seen in hospitals, care homes, hotels, home deliveries and more.

- Can you think of the positive and negative ways robots are currently used?
- Can you think of what a shop, or hotel, or hospital may look like in 10 years time? By asking friends, family members and parents, research the internet, explore some of the ways robots are currently used and how they may be used in the future.



Can you design a robot that you think could make your life better? Or can you design a robot that could help others? This can be done digitally or away from a computer using paper and pens.

Want to learn more have a look at:

BBC News: Robotics. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/c8nq32jw88jt/robotics>

BBC: Why are we fascinated by robots? <https://bbc.in/2oXld0e>



Who knows the most about you and what could they say? When we use the internet we sometimes leave a digital footprint of information about ourselves.

Because of this we need to remember to be careful when using our information online!

Digital footprints

Think of the following people and search for their names online. What information can you find out about them?

- Family Member
- Famous person you know about
- A leader or politician

Do you think they would really have wanted to share all of this information? How would you feel if there was lots of information about you online?



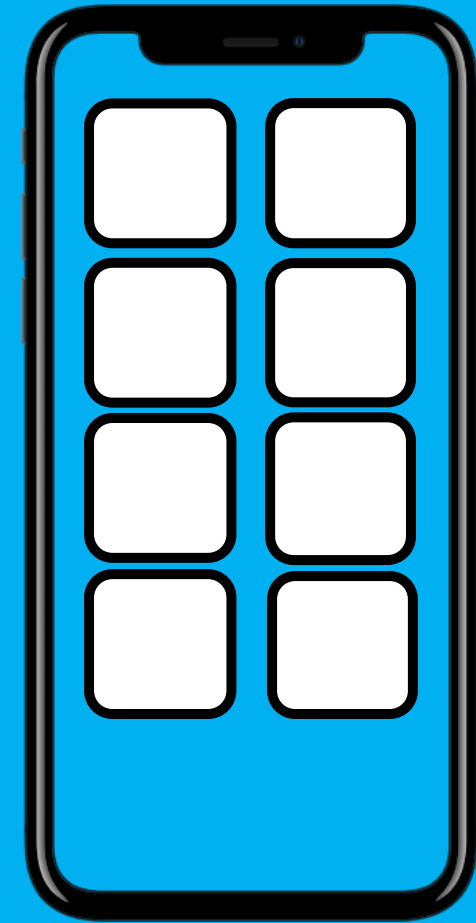
Information is believed to be on the internet forever!

App-tastic!

Phones and Tablets have apps which allow you to do different things on them. Apps can help you learn new skills, try new things and watch cool stuff!

Using a piece of paper, copy the drawing on the right and fill in the blanks with different apps you know about (see examples below). Can you explain what they do?

With one of the blank spaces draw an icon (small picture) of a new app that you would like to exist!



Apps are just a different name for computer programmes. App is short for Application!



Block or no
block

People online can be mean and treat us badly even when we know them. Should this happens it is important to know what to do so that we can protect our feelings.



What you'll need - Statements in Appendix 1

Instructions:

1. On small pieces of paper or post it notes, write down the names of the statements in Appendix 1.
2. Identify an area on the floor that can be used to put these names either into a "Block" or "No Block" side.
3. Ask your child to make a choice if someone should be blocked or not be blocked based on the statements for each name. When they make a decision they can put the name underneath or on top of the block type object.



Discuss with your child: Why is it important to block/remove someone who is mean to you and says things that aren't nice? What could happen if you don't do anything?

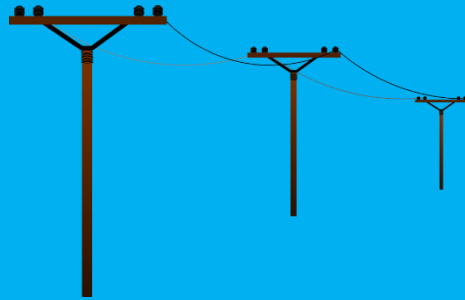
Powering the digital world

Computing technology allows us to look and hopefully find creative and sustainable solutions to many of the serious issues that are affecting our fragile planet.

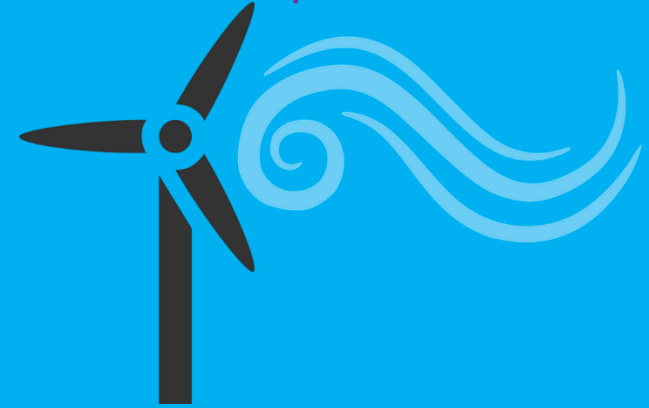


We need to find solutions for clean energy generation to provide clean fresh water and reverse the effects of global warming, climate change and many more things that affect our planet.

Can you find out where the power for your house comes from by doing some research?



Try and find 3 pieces of technology in your home that use the most energy.



Is renewable energy part of the power that is delivered to your home? What types of power are there?



**Fake
or....**

Have a look at the web pages below. Can you tell if they are real or fake?

Save the Tree Octopus - <https://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus/>

Dog Island - <http://www.thedogisland.com/>

All About the Explorers - <https://www.allaboutexplorers.com/>



How good are
you at telling
what's true
and what
isn't?

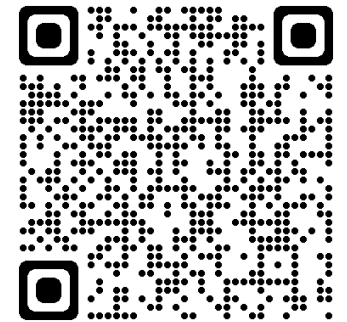
Developing digital
literacy skills and
being able to
identify what's
'real' on social
media is a skill
we all need!



All of these sites are not real! Are you surprised how good they all look?

Websites may be fake when the information in them is incorrect or misleading. It's always good to take your time and question if a site is real or not!

Find out more by looking at this QR code with a phone.



Internet Safety

The internet is like a big message board and when things get put up there they are usually up forever.



Get your child to create or find a picture that they like. Ask who they would be happy sharing it with. Make a list together?

With your chosen picture look for a way to display it in your window or outside your home.

Discuss that this is what happens when pictures go on the internet. If something is shared publicly like this it is there for everyone to see, anyone can take it and anyone can copy it.

Discuss with your child:

- What could be done to reduce the chances of people copying your picture?
- Should you share pictures or secrets with those you trust?
- If you share a picture or secret online can you find out who has seen it or knows about it?



Cyber Resilience

One of the most important things you can have online is a password. Having a good password that nobody can guess keeps your information safe from strangers!



With your child think of a password that you might use to protect something, but make it something that you know and is easy to remember. It could either be a pet, person, place, favourite object or toy.

When you both have a password in mind take turns to see if you can figure out what that password is by giving clues along the way.

Now make a strong password!

Think of three things that you really like and create a password out of that. Does it sound funny?

Some ideas: Catstoyssun, Juicepetshome, Friendsgamesschool, Bikeballsweets

Talk about: How easy was it to figure out the 1st password? Do you think other people could guess an easy password?

For more top tips go to:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/top-tips-for-staying-secure-online/three-random-words>

Hello, my name is Laura and I work for a game development studio with two offices in Scotland!



I am a video game programmer, which means I get to make games for a living. This includes games you can play on your phone, computer, consoles, and even in Virtual Reality (VR). My studio is most known for working on Minecraft, have you ever played it?

I became a game programmer because I have always liked playing video games. I like having a deep understanding of how game systems work, and as a programmer I enjoy making them from scratch. I made my first game while still in school with some friends, before I even knew how to program. I made several other short ones for fun while at university. One day I realised that I could just make this hobby into my job, and I am very happy that I did!

My role as a game programmer is to create all the interactions in a game. This means I work on the character movement, dialogue choices, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and the game flow (which is how you get from the start of a game to a "game over"). At my company I get to do a little bit of everything, which is a lot of fun, because I learn something new every day.

Programmers communicate with designers and artists to make the game as much fun as possible. We often give each other feedback and work together on tasks. We also play our game a lot to make sure it works, and it is fun to play. Why do you think it's important for programmers, designers and artists to interact? I am also very creative and like coming up with ideas for games we could make. If the whole team likes an idea, we can turn it into a game over a few years. I am planning to suggest a game idea with a few colleagues soon, hope you get to play it one day!

Games are important because they let people relax, have fun, and connect friends who live far away. They also let you become immersed in a world and give you the freedom to decide how you want to play the game.

If you also like playing games, why not try making your own? There are a lot of online resources to help you get started, and it's fun to share something you've made with friends and family. Many schools have programming or even game development clubs. Why not check if yours has one too?

Now you're a Digital Explorer!

investigating

creating

data

coding

adapting

having fun

team working

imagining

Let's keep
exploring
together!



Want to
learn more?

Parentzone Scotland

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-in-scotland/Curriculum-areas>

Strong passwords

[Passwords, passwords everywhere - NCSC.GOV.UK](https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/passwords)

Digi Know | Information | Young Scot

<https://young.scot/campaigns/national/digi-know-information>

YouthLink Scotland | Safe, Secure & Empowered

<https://www.youthlinkscotland.org/SSE>

Inspiring and developing young people through STEM

<https://www.youngstemleader.scot/>

BBC Bitesize

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>



Appendix 1 Statements

Tabitha

Tabitha is always posting messages on social media. Some of these messages are quite mean. She has said things on social media before to you that are not nice and she likes to tag you in these messages so you can see them.

Roger

Roger sends you funny pictures and videos when he sees them. He says that you might like them too. He sends them during the week but doesn't send too many and they are never rude.

Jim

Jim sends pictures of himself making rude faces which he thinks are funny. He likes to do this over and over again. You have told him to stop and tried to ignore him but he keeps doing it.

Aisha

Aisha groups up with you in games as you are online friends. She lives in England so you have never met her in real life. She is good fun to play with and always encourages you when you play together.

Margaret

Margaret likes to add you to group chats randomly. You don't know the people in these group chats and sometimes they talk about things that are quite mean and make you feel uncomfortable.

Peter

Peter shares things on his social media that are interesting and fun. He likes to tell stories of what he is doing with his time and show pictures of where he has been. When you comment on pictures he always likes what you say,

Jeremy

Jeremy loves commenting on other people's pictures and videos. He does this all the time but he never says nice things. He always tries to make fun of people and what they are doing and how they look.



Glossary

- Adapting - critical thinking, changing
- Creative problem solving - generating ideas, team-working
- Improving - experimenting, evaluating and trying again
- Problem-finding - investigating, checking
- STEM - a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific disciplines — science, technology, engineering and mathematics
- Fintech - Financial technology
- HTML - Hyper Text Markup Language. This is the standard markup language for creating Web pages
- Binary - This numbering system is the basis for all binary code, which is used to write digital data such as the computer processor instructions used every day
- Pixel - A pixel is the smallest unit of a digital image or graphic that can be displayed and represented on a digital display device
- Cyber resilience - is the ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from cyber attacks



Hey, I'm Iain. I'm a video game programmer.

My title is "Lead Software Developer", which makes a lot of people think that my job is telling other people what to do. I spend most of my time helping the other programmers on my team, and showing them how to do things they haven't done before. This is a bit like how your teachers show you new things, and help you get better at them.

I've always loved all kinds of games - video games, board games, card games. My mum likes to joke that if you told me to do something I wouldn't do it, but you could get me to do anything by making a game out of it. When I was young I used to make my own games out of cereal boxes, and I never really stopped.

Being a programmer is a lot of hard work, but it's really satisfying to see something you've made working on the screen. And it's even more satisfying when you see other people having fun with what you've made.

One of the most important parts of programming is thinking through what can go wrong with what you've made. For example, if your game has a character that can jump if you press A, then you need to make sure that they can't just keep pressing A to jump in mid-air (unless that's the point of your game!). What would happen if you could do that in one of your favourite games? If you'd like to be a video game programmer, then you should focus on maths and computing, as we use those every day. You might be surprised how often you get to use those random bits of knowledge that you have, the things that may seem useless most of the time! No matter what you're interested in, it could be useful one day in a games career. I used to do a lot of skateboarding, and what I learned doing that, comes up way more often than you think.



If you want to find out more about Digital Leaders go to: <https://digileaders.com/region/scotland/>

Thank you to...

! Toni Scullion
Digital Leader
Glasgow
University

Families from
North
Lanarkshire
CLD Parent
Voice

Jayne Mays
Digital Leader
Fintry Primary
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UK Limited



Contact Us

Education Scotland
Denholm House
Almondvale Business Park
Almondvale Way
Livingston, EH54 6GA, Scotland

Email: enquiries@educationscotland.gov.scot
Tel: +44 (0)131 244 4330