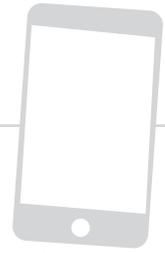


Information Exchange Online



When your Grandparents were your age, information exchange took place either by talking to one another face-to-face or on the telephone, or sending handwritten letters to one another (over greater distances). Nowadays, a lot of our information exchange involves some element of ICT, except for talking face-to-face, which you'll get to do lots of in this activity!

The information below will get you started investigating the questions about using the Internet for information exchange:

The Internet

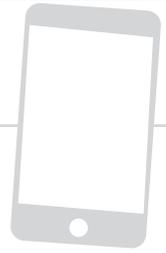
The Internet is made up of a vast network of computers linked together by telephone lines, fibre optic cables and satellites. Today it is used all over the world to send information to each other, research information, chat and join networking groups such as Club Penguin, Bebo and Facebook, Twitter, online games, music, software updates and movies.

The Internet allows information to be effortlessly transmitted to many people, almost instantaneously. The World Wide Web is made up of many websites. To view a website you need to use a browser and a modem to connect to the Internet. The modem talks to the network and allows data to be sent and received from your personal computer. Websites can then be viewed from any computer that connects to the Internet. The Internet is a public network, in much the same way as the telephone network is a public network. If you want to call someone, you need a telephone, telephone service and a phone number. If you want to view a website, you need a computer with a modem and browser, Internet service provider and a web site address. Every computer connected to the Internet has a unique number. This is called an IP address or number.

Every website has a unique IP address or number. The domain name servers hold the IP numbers and direct the request sent by your modem to the correct IP address. Since, it is easier to remember a name and not a set of numbers, domain names are registered by individuals and companies. The domain name is then pointed to an IP address and when a user types in the domain name, they are directed to the corresponding IP address.

Nowadays, most people connect to the Internet using wireless networks or WiFi. As the name suggests, WiFi enables you to connect to the Internet without the need for wires, instead radio waves are used to transmit data within a certain area, often referred to as a Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN). A device called a wireless transmitter receives data from the Internet which it converts and sends as radio waves which can be received by a whole variety of every day ICT equipment such as computers, laptops, game stations, digital audio devices and mobile phones. Anyone with a device adapted for WiFi can send or receive data in an area supporting WiFi such as cafes, hotels, airports, railway stations and increasingly peoples own homes. Mobile internet and broadband has made information exchange online easier than ever, with many of us able to connect to the Internet via smart phone technology to communicate via emails and or surf the web wherever we are.

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1. Now you know how the Internet works see if you can find out the answers to these questions:

A. What are Search Engines?

B. What is Instant Messaging?

C. What are emails?

D. What other methods do people use to exchange information on the Internet?

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2. Now you've done your research, answer these four questions to show what you think about information exchange online:

A. How do you use the Internet?

B. Are instant messages a good method of information exchange? Explain your answer.

C. Are emails a good method of information exchange? Explain your answer.

D. What devices do you use to access the Internet?
