All About

MINECRAFT

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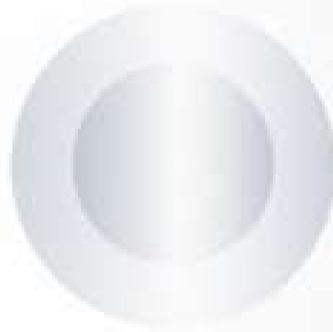
Contents

WHAT IS MINECRAFT

Minecraft is a video game in which players create and break apart various kinds of blocks in three-dimensional worlds. The game's two main modes are Survival and Creative. In Survival, players must find their own building supplies and food. They also interact with blocklike mobs or moving creatures. (Creepers and zombies are some of the dangerous ones.) In Creative, players are given supplies and do not have to eat to survive. They also can break all kinds of blocks immediately.

Are there points or levels? No. The purpose of the game is simply to build and explore (and survive).

How many players can play it? You can play by yourself or you can play online with others. The smartphone and tablet versions offer multi-player options through WiFi networks. Players can connect to thousands of Minecraft online games (servers), some of which involve battling other players.(KidsPost, www.washingtonpost.com)

THE WORLD IS YOURS FOR THE MAKING

Prepare for an adventure of limitless possibilities as you build, mine, battle mobs, and explore the ever-changing Minecraft landscape

If we check official explanation of **What is Minecraft**? Simply put, Minecraft is the biggest sandbox you have ever played in. The landscape stretches infinitely in all directions, as far as the eye can see. It extends up into the hills and mountains, and down into dark caverns filled with lava and treasure. Just like a sandbox, there are no specific goals in Minecraft, no set objectives to fill. The fun comes from setting your own goals and deciding how you want to play on a given day. Maybe you will head into the jungle in search of a jungle temple. Perhaps you will build your dream treehouse with a perfect view of the ocean, or mine deep underground in search of emeralds and diamonds. Whenever one task becomes too difficult, or boring, or when you get stuck and need some help or inspiration, you can just choose to do something else. There is always something engaging to do, and no matter what you choose to do, you will always learn more about the world around you and be thinking about better and more efficient ways to accomplish what you want to do.

At first look, Minecraft is not visually impressive – new players are often struck by how "blocky" everything looks. But after playing the game for a while, they become immersed in the game environment, and they realize the complexity of the game world. It's the situations and the challenges that make Minecraft seem real, not the graphics or the animation. In fact, the relatively crude graphics give it a cartoonish feel that is charming and disarming in its own way, keeping the feel of the game light

Teaching with Minecraft is like teaching with blocks. The blocks are simply an engaging tool for the lessons you build around them. You could allow your kids to play with the blocks freely, see what they come up with, and share and celebrate their creations. You could use the blocks to build an imaginary town and discuss where the roads should go, what the buildings should be called, and whether you will need a jail.

Coding in Minecraft is like giving yourself superpowers. Many students are already accustomed to how Minecraft works normally. The prospect of using code to automate tedious tasks such as mining or chopping trees is immensely motivating to Minecraft players and the ability to immediately see the results of the code you wrote in the Minecraft world is incredibly powerful. Students can use a flat world to start out with, as a "sandbox" for their code, and as they learn and experiment, they will be able to see the progress of their learning visually in their world as a series of different physical projects and constructions.

For an in-depth introduction to Minecraft, you can download and install Minecraft Education Edition and follow the tutorial here: https://education.minecraft.net/worlds/tutorial-world/.

For more information on how to download and install Minecraft and Microsoft MakeCode, see the Setup Directions here: https://minecraft.makecode.com/setup (Kiang, Introduction to Computer Science with MakeCode for Minecraft)

Why Minecraft is good for kids

1. Minecraft enhances life skills

One reason Minecraft is good for kids is the promotion of creativity, problem-solving, self-direction, and collaboration—all of which stand out as the less-tangible, non-academic benefits Minecraft provides. It is these life skills that will give kids the boost needed when they eventually work their way towards succeeding in college and future careers.

2. Creativity

Minecraft is unique in that it's an unlimited world where kids can create literally anything they can imagine, but within the constraint that everything is made up of blocks that must fit within the 3D grid of the game. Each game mode in Minecraft offers different opportunities for creativity!

Pirate galleys, re-creations of both fictional and real-world cities, and even your favorite sci-fi ships probably already exist in Minecraft, and were also built by someone who hasn't graduated high school yet. Now that's some major creativity! (Seriously, go Google "cool things built in Minecraft." It'll blow your mind.)

3. Problem-Solving

"Survival mode," where various creatures come out at night and attack players, is just one facet of the way Minecraft encourages problem-solving. Players are dropped into various environments and must quickly figure out how to find and build shelter, make weapons, and collect food in order to survive. Strategy comes into play in a big way here, as each Minecraft "day" lasts a scant 10 real-world minutes, meaning players have to think on their feet if they want to stay alive.

4. Self-Direction

Minecraft is also unique in that there is no way to "win." Players must decide for themselves what they want to get out of their time in the game.

Do they want to collect resources and build cool stuff? Do they want to band together with their fellows and defeat a boss? It's up to them!

Such independence—and the positive reinforcement that comes when they check off the next goal on their chosen path—builds self-confidence and lets kids feel like they're in charge of their own fate, a feeling that can sometimes be lacking in the rule-laden real world.

5. Collaboration

There are a few different ways kids can play Minecraft with friends (learn how to set up a Minecraft server here), either locally or with others around the world, and work together to achieve goals while doing so. They pool resources, build structures, defeat enemies, trade tips—the communication and cooperation involved is endless. Kids can then take these social skills and apply them to their lives off the computer.

MineCraft In Schools

Educators are using Minecraft as a tool for learning in most grade levels and content areas in classrooms around the world, and have discovered that their students remain engaged, highly motivated, and excited to share their expertise while demonstrating their learning as they use a favorite game.

The scale of every block in Minecraft represents 1 cubic meter, so applications in mathematics and geometry are clear. Students can visualize concepts such as area, perimeter, and volume in three dimensions. Students can demonstrate ratio, proportion, and fractions using Minecraft, as well as collect and graph data, all in the gameusing Minecraft, as well as collect and graph data, all in the game world. Science teachers have discovered they can use Minecraft to teach geology, physics, and biology. Students are aptly creating models of plate tectonics, DNA, animal cells, and even quantum behavior. Redstone blocks in Minecraft release a power source that students and teachers can use to explore electrical circuitry and operate switches, pistons, and logic gates. One popular modification teaches computer programming, while another supports environmental education.

Minecraft is also great for teaching social sciences and literacy. Students demonstrate their understanding of setting, plot, theme, and conflict by recreating children's stories and young adult novels scene by scene. Books and journals within the game can support student-and teacher-generated text and can include live links to information available on the Internet.

Minecraft as a game

Minecraft is a game. Yet, since its inception in 2009, it has evolved into an amazing tool for creating, innovating, teaching, and learning. It absorbs players in a blocky, three-dimensional world where they are free to explore and create whatever they can think of using a simple interface. With over seventy million copies sold, it is quickly becoming the world's all-time best-

selling game. Minecraft is a unique game in that there are no levels that you pass to continue on inside the game. The game is open-ended, where you create the experience for yourself as you play. The basics of playing Minecraft encourage collaboration and not competition. Certainly, players can turn the game into a competitive experience, by playing player versus player (PvP) or racing through a parkour map. When playing in "survival" mode, players gain experience (XP) in a variety of skills.

Single Player vs. Multiplayer

You can play Minecraft alone or with others; and there's no difference in the in-game mechanics between the two. Purchasing a Minecraft account allows players to play in either mode, but it also depends on the platform, We will discuss about platform later.

Creative Mode and Survival Mode

Players must decide between two common game mode options when beginning a new game: creative mode and survival mode.

In "creative" mode, every player has access to an unlimited supply of blocks of every kind. They can fly high in the air and dive deep under water without fear of dying. Players cannot harm others or be killed or attacked by mobs; they don't need to eat or worry about their health. They can concentrate instead on creating whatever their minds can think of. When playing in this mode with others, builds can reach epic proportions.