

SEARCH ENGINES – OVERVIEW

Overview

This unit will develop students' understanding of using search engines effectively and safely. They will gain an understanding of how computer networks including the internet; can provide multiple services such as the World Wide Web. Students will learn how to use search technologies effectively returning results that match what they're searching for. Whilst using the internet, they will develop their understanding of how to use the technology safely, respectfully and responsibly.

In this unit, students will learn what the internet and the World Wide Web are. They will gain an understanding of how search engines work. They will develop skills in using keywords and specific search techniques and will develop critical thinking as they evaluate search results. Students will learn about online safety and understand what it means to be a digital citizen. They will develop skills in identifying information reliability and bias in the search results that they return.

National Curriculum

Knowledge and understanding	Computing concepts
To understand computer networks, including the internet and how they can provide multiple services, such as the world wide web.	Computer systems – understanding how networks can be used to retrieve and share information.
To use search technologies effectively.	Digital literacy – understand how to use keywords and search techniques, and how to evaluate results.
To use technology safely, respectfully, and responsibly; recognise unacceptable behaviour; identify a range of ways to report concerns about content and contact.	Digital literacy – understanding how to behave responsibly when using digital services and e-safety.

The computing curriculum

Where the knowledge and understanding developed in this unit fits into Illuminate's computing curriculum is outlined below:

Prior Learning	Future Learning
EYFS Unit: Using a computer	Year 5 Unit: Systems and searching
Year 1 Unit: Mouse skills, typing and saving	Year 6 Unit: Communicating and collaborating
Year 2 Unit: Parts of a computer	
Year 3 Unit: Connecting computers	

Cross-curricular links and extension activities

This unit provides opportunities for cross-curricular links in English through reading and writing as students evaluate sources, take notes from websites and practise skimming and scanning text. They

will retrieve and record information from non-fiction texts and distinguish between statements of fact and opinion.

This unit provides opportunities for links in geography when creating themed research task (e.g. volcanoes, climate, rivers or understanding place-based knowledge researching capital cities or landmarks). Students can use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied.

This unit also provides cross-curricular links through science as students research scientific questions (e.g. How do magnets work?) and encourages evidence-based thinking when comparing reliable science sites. Students should ask relevant questions and use different types of scientific enquiries to answer them.

This unit provides cross-curricular links in PSHE as students develop skills in critical digital literacy and safe online behaviour as they recognise acceptable/unacceptable behaviour and know a range of ways to report concerns.

This unit provides opportunities for cross-curricular links in Art and Design as students create posters and presentations on research topics and safe searching. They will produce create work, exploring ideas and recording their experiences.

The project-based cross-curricular links in this unit can be substituted for links in any of the subjects depending what students are studying at the time.