Childrens' *Online Content* Worksheet

Introduction sheet for Parents and Teachers

Background

As the UK's communications regulator, we make sure people get the best from their communications services. We have a duty, under the Communications Act 2003, to promote and carry out research in media literacy. Media literacy enables people to have the skills, knowledge and understanding to make full use of the opportunities presented by both traditional and new communications services.

As part of this work, we conduct research into how children aged 3-15 use and think about media, including the internet. We also talk to their parents and carers about the different ways they keep their children safe when they use media. Our research findings are published in our annual report **'Children and parents: media use and attitudes'**. The most recent can be read, along with our other research, at https://www.ofcom.org.uk/medialiteracy.

What is the worksheet about?

In collaboration with Childnet[1], a charity working with others to help make the internet a great and safe place for children, we've created a worksheet for children aged 8-11. The worksheet focuses on *when and how children go online, and what they see when they do*. This supports our work with Safer Internet Day 2017[2], and its theme of *images*.

Children are surrounded by lots of different images every day. To understand what images and content they see, we asked them what types of things they look at, and what they would do if they saw something worrying or nasty. The worksheet shows children the results from our research, and encourages them to consider their own online use and what is appropriate for their age group. They can be used in school, or at home with parents, and can help to prompt important discussions about being safe online.

Useful resources

The following websites provide useful advice on helping children stay safe online:

Childnet: http://www.childnet.com/

Safer Internet Day: http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/

CEOP: http://ceop.police.uk/About-Us/

Media Smart: http://mediasmart.uk.com/

Get Safe Online: https://www.getsafeonline.org/

NSPCC Net Aware: https://www.net-aware.org.uk/#

Internet Matters: http://www.internetmatters.org/

Thinkuknow: https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/

Safer Internet Day 2017 takes place on Tuesday 7th February, with the theme 'Be the change: Unite for a better internet'. Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre, the celebration sees hundreds of schools and organisations join together to raise awareness of online safety issues and run events and activities right across the UK.

Find out more and get involved! www.saferinternetday.org.uk #SID2017

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[1] Childnet: http://www.childnet.com/
[2] Safer Internet Day 2017: www.saferinternetday.org.uk

What do you see when you go online?

Your name:

Class:

We are surrounded by images every day on our mobile phones, tablets, computers and TVs. Pictures and video are a great way to inspire others, remember good times and share important moments but is this all that you see when you go online?

To understand what images and content children in the UK are seeing, we asked them what types of things they look at when they are online.

How do you and your classmates compare with the children aged 8-11 from our survey?

Key to icons

TV   Computer   Tablet
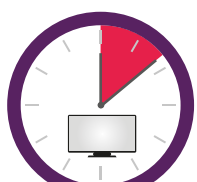
Games console   Mobile phone   Internet

INTRODUCTION

1

On an average school day 8-11 year olds spend almost as long online as they do watching TV.
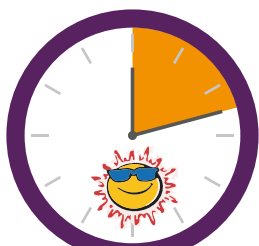
1h 42m   1h 36m   1h 06m

Does this seem like a lot to you?

....

Which one do you think you spend the most time doing?

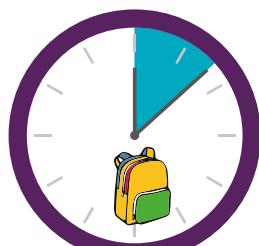..

GOING ONLINE

2

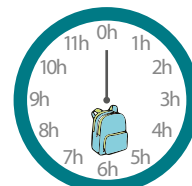Children aged 8-11 spend more time at the weekend online, than they do on a school day.

Weekend
2h 30m

School day
1h 36m

How much time do you think you spend online on an average school day? *(fill in the clock)*

11h 0h 1h
10h   2h
9h   3h
8h   4h
7h 6h 5h

Is this more or less than you would spend on a weekend day?

Discuss the reasons why these might be different.

11h 0h 1h
10h   2h
9h   3h
8h   4h
7h 6h 5h
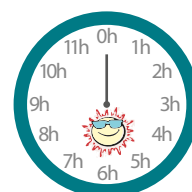
3

Tablets and laptops are their favourite devices to use to go online.
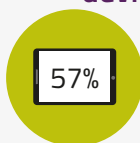
57%   55%   35%

20%   20%   5%

Which devices do you use?

....

....

Which is your favourite, and why?

....

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Their favourite online creative activities are: drawing and making pictures, making videos and editing photos.

- 40% Drawing/making pictures
- 32% Make a video
- 31% Change/edit a photo
- 19% Make an avatar/charactar in a game
- 12% Make an animation
- 6% Make a music video
- 6% Make a blog
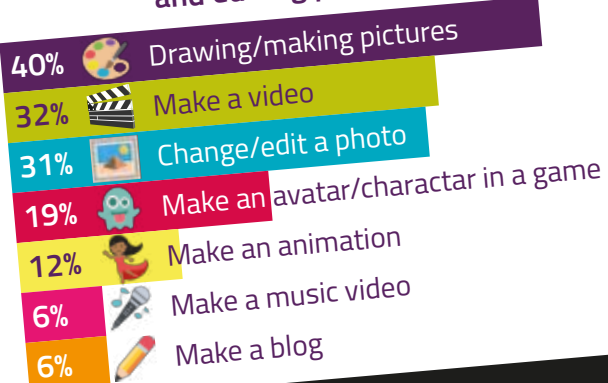
Have you done any of these things online?
Draw or write your favourite one here:

How does doing these things make you feel?
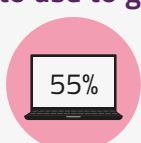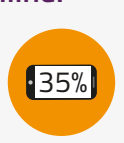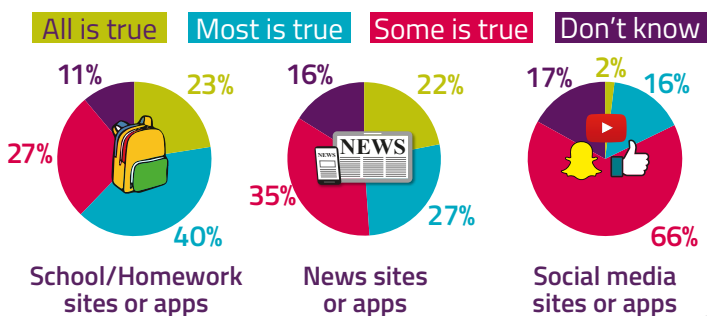Pick one or two emoji's ...

5

Children use a lot of websites to gather information. Of the following types of websites and apps, our 8-11 year olds thought ...

All is true Most is true Some is true Don't know

School/Homework sites or apps
11% 23% 27% 40%

News sites or apps
16% 22% 35% 27%

Social media sites or apps
17% 2% 16% 66%

Many websites contain true information, but knowing how to decide which information is true is a key skill. Do you think all of the information you see on these sites/apps is true?
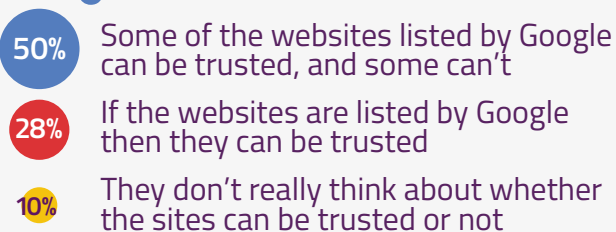
School/homework sites
News sites & apps
Social Media sites & apps

All Some Most
is true
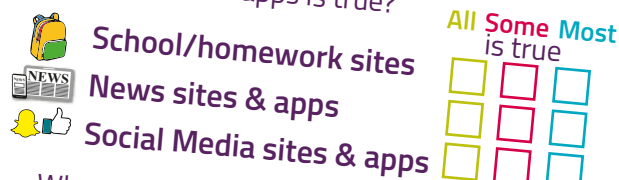
What can you do to check if the information you see is true?

....
....
....

Some of the things you can do both online and offline to check information are:
1: Check other websites
2: Check books
3: Talk to someone

6

Half of 8-11 year olds thought that some of the websites listed by Google can be trusted, but that some cannot.

Google

- 50% Some of the websites listed by Google can be trusted, and some can't
- 28% If the websites are listed by Google then they can be trusted
- 10% They don't really think about whether the sites can be trusted or not

Do you trust everything you see on Google?
....

When you search on Google, how do you decide which link to click?

....
....

Why do some websites appear at the top of a Google search?
Does this make them more trustworthy?

....
....
....

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The main thing that 8-11 year olds don't like about being online is that there are too many adverts.

- **41%** Ad Too many adverts
- **21%** Strangers might find out info about them
- **21%** People being nasty, mean or unkind to them
- **17%** Someone pretending to be their age and try to get to know them or trick them
- **16%** See things that make them feel sad, frightened or embarrassed
- **12%** Feel pressure to make online or in-app purchases
- **11%** Sometimes spend too much time online
- **9%** Websites being blocked so can't see them

Which things do you not like about being online?

....
....
....

Which things would you stop if you could?

....
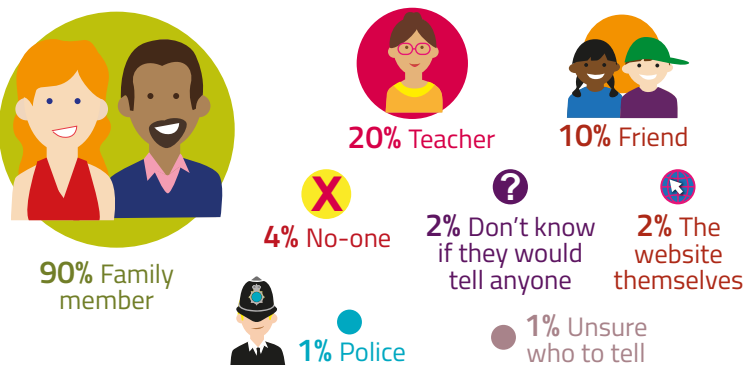...................................
....

How do these things make you feel? Pick one or two emoji's ...

Nearly all of our 8-11 year olds said they would tell a family member if they saw something worrying, nasty, or offensive online.

- **90%** Family member
- **20%** Teacher
- **10%** Friend
- **4%** No-one
- **2%** Don't know if they would tell anyone
- **2%** The website themselves
- **1%** Police
- **1%** Unsure who to tell

It is very important to talk to someone if you see something online that you don't like, or that worries you.

Would you tell someone? Who would you tell?

....

DISCUSSION TOPICS

What kinds of images do you see on the internet? *(These can be cartoons, pictures, photos, or videos)*

Do you ever 'share' images that you see on your mobile or computer? What kinds of things, and who do you share them with?

Do you ever create photos, pictures or videos and post them online? Do these get shared by anyone else?

Do you think everything you see on the internet is appropriate for your age group? What kinds of things do you think are not appropriate?

Why do you think it is important to tell someone if you see something on the internet that you find worrying, confusing or nasty?

What good things do you see online? Do you ever see things which inspire you?

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9

Nearly three-quarters of 8-11 year olds said they have ever used the YouTube website or app.

Use 73% | Don't use 27%

10

A tablet was the most popular device to watch YouTube on.

46% | 20% | 14% | 13% | 4%

Have you ever used the website or app? ....

What do you like about YouTube?

....

....

Which devices have you ever used to watch YouTube?

....

....

Which devices do you prefer to use?

....
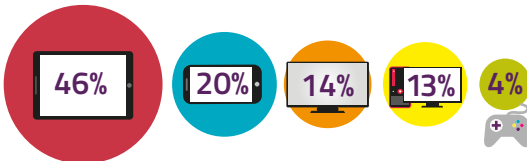
11

The most popular things to watch on YouTube were funny videos, jokes, pranks and challenges.

67% 😂 Funny videos, jokes, pranks, challenges
61% 🎤 Music videos
45% 🎮 Game tutorials, watching others play
43% 🎓 'How to' videos and tutorials
36% 👧 Vloggers or YouTube personalities
29% 🖥 Programmes, films, cartoons
26% 🎬 Film trailers, clips, highlights
18% 📦 Unboxing videos
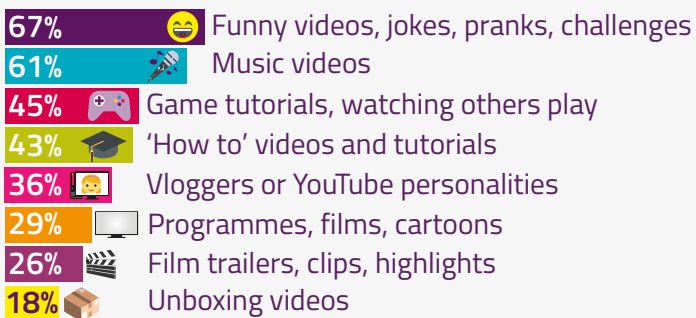
Do you watch any of these?   ....

Which are your favourites? ....

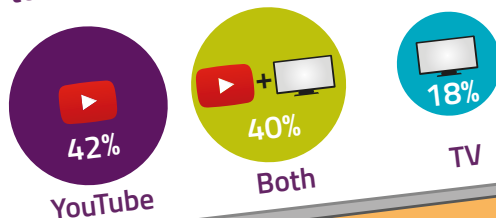..

Draw your favourite character or video

How does watching YouTube make you feel? Pick one or two emoji's ...

12

Four in ten 8-11 year olds said they preferred to watch YouTube than watching TV

42% YouTube | 40% Both | 18% TV

Which do you prefer to watch?
....

Why is that?
....

....

DISCUSSION TOPICS

What kinds of images do you see on YouTube?

Do you ever see anything you think is inappropriate for children your age on YouTube?

Do you think there should be rules in place so your age group cannot see these things?

What are the good things about watching YouTube? Have you ever learned anything from what you have seen?

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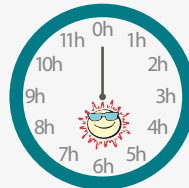making communications work
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GAMING ONLINE

Games can be played on media devices, such as mobile phones, tablets, games consoles, or TV.

13

Children aged 8-11 said they spent more time playing games at the weekend, than they do on a school day

Weekend
1h 54m

School day
1h 06m

How much time do you think you spend playing games on an average school day?

Is this more or less than you would spend on a weekend day?

Why is that? ....
....

14

A games console was the most popular device to play games on.

57%   42%   26%   25%   25%

Circle your favourite devices to play games on.

What is your favourite game to play?
....

15

Nearly seven in ten 8-11 year olds said they play games online.

68% Play online

32% Don't play online
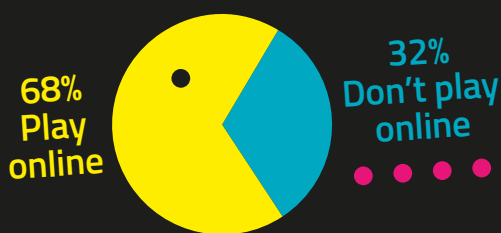
Playing games online is when you are connected to the internet, and some games allow you to work with or play against others while online.

Do you play games online? ....

Draw a picture, or write a description, of your favourite game or character.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

What kinds of images do you see when you are gaming? Are there any that might concern you?

When you are using online games do you connect with other players? Are these friends that you know offline, like school friends, neighbours, etc.?

Do you ever play with 'online friends' – players that you have never met?
It's very important to know that a friend you only know online is a stranger. So you must not meet up with them in person, share images or videos with them, or any personal information.

Do you think it is OK to talk to players online that you don't know? If not, why?

What do you think are the good things about playing games – both offline and online?

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Use these links to find out more about how to be safe when online:

Childnet: www.childnet.com/young-people

Childline: www.childline.org.uk

MediaSmart: www.mediasmart.uk.com/young-people

ThinkuKnow: www.thinkuknow.co.uk

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Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre, the celebration sees hundreds of schools and organisations join together to raise awareness of online safety issues and run events and activities right across the UK. As a result of our collective action Safer Internet Day 2016 reached 2.8 million UK children and 2.5 million UK parents.

Find out more and get involved!

www.saferinternetday.org.uk

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ABOUT THIS WORKSHEET

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