

# Parents' Guide to Minecraft: Education Edition

Imagine building the city of the future, taking a voyage to an ancient Viking village, writing code to fight a wildfire, or learning about the periodic table by conducting chemical experiments without a lab? These are just a few of the exciting ways educators enrich learning through Minecraft: Education Edition.

In this guide, you'll learn the basics of Minecraft, why Minecraft is a useful educational tool, and how to get started using Minecraft: Education Edition in your home learning environment.

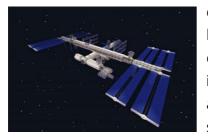


#### What is Minecraft: Education Edition?

You may already be familiar with Minecraft, a popular game where players collaborate and build creatively with blocks in immersive 3D worlds. Minecraft: Education Edition is a game-based learning platform that builds STEM skills, unleashes creativity and engages students in

collaboration and problem-solving. Minecraft helps educators meet students where they are and inspires deep, meaningful learning across subjects.

Anyone can use Minecraft as an alternative to a poster, project, or other activity in which **they explain or model a topic**. Learners can also design, engineer, and model solutions to



challenges in Minecraft. Minecraft: Education Edition includes hundreds of pre-made Minecraft worlds. Players can build their own worlds, allowing them to engage in and explore an **instructive virtual environment**. Minecraft learning can happen alone or when classmates and friends join each other simultaneously in a multiplayer experience. To learn more about

the hundreds of lessons available for Minecraft: Education Edition, visit <a href="https://education.minecraft.net/class-resources/lessons/">https://education.minecraft.net/class-resources/lessons/</a>

#### What is different about Education Edition?

- 1. **Education-specific game features:** Tools like the camera, portfolio, and Book & Quill let players capture learning, write stories and export their observations for sharing with others.
- 2. Code Builder and the Agent: The Minecraft Agent is your in-game coding companion. Using the built-in code editor, learners can write code to command the Agent do a range of activities in the game while learning coding fundamentals.





- **3. Chemistry**: The Chemistry resource pack in Minecraft: Education Edition allows learners to discover the building blocks of matter, combine elements into useful compounds and fun items, and conduct amazing virtual science experiments.
- **4. Lesson Plans**: The Minecraft: Education Edition website offers a <u>library</u> of hundreds of lesson plans in Language Arts, Computer Science, Math, Art & Design and History. Many of these lessons have supplementary Minecraft worlds, so students can apply their learning in-game.



## **How does Minecraft: Education Edition support learning?**

- Supports deep and meaningful student-led learning that builds confidence and keeps students engaged.
- Standards-aligned lessons and curriculum drive learning outcomes in subjects including science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), history and language arts.
- Supports virtual learning experiences that directly link to and expand on the subjects being taught in the classroom.
- Encourages collaboration, empathy and communication, helping students build critical social-emotional skills
- Promotes key 21<sup>st</sup> century skills that prepare students for the future workplace including creativity, problem solving and critical thinking.

### **Installing Minecraft: Education Edition on your device**

You don't need to be an expert Minecraft player to start learning with Minecraft: Education Edition! Start by downloading the app and exploring free online tutorials, lessons, and support resources for learning with Minecraft.

Check to see if your child's school account is eligible for M:EE by visiting the Get Started page. Minecraft: Education Edition is available free to millions of educators and learners who have a valid Office 365 Education accounts through June, 2020. Minecraft Education Edition is available for Windows, Mac, or iPad. Follow the directions on the page to ensure your device is setup to support Minecraft.

If you're not eligible, you may still download Minecraft: Education Edition and complete the log-in free Hour of Code lesson at no charge. If you have the Bedrock version of Minecraft, be sure to check out the <u>Education category in the Minecraft Marketplace</u> which has over a dozen fun educational worlds available for free download through June, 2020. Also look for the <u>Minecraft Challenge Guide</u> with over a dozen free educational challenges that will work in any version of the game.



# **Support Resources**

- Learn to play by <u>watching short videos</u>
- Explore <u>free lessons & curriculum</u>
- Find technical support in the <u>Minecraft Education Edition support community</u>

