

Kit's Clever Computing: Understanding Networks

Learning objective: To understand what a computer network is and how devices communicate with each other.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of computing to explain how data travels between devices. Use the word bank to help you complete your answers.

Word bank: network · server · internet · data · wireless · connection · devices

1. Kit is setting up a computer lab. In your own words, explain what a 'network' is and why it is useful for schools. (2 marks)

2. When we send a message from one tablet to another, the information is broken down into small pieces. What is the name of this information that travels across the network? (1 mark)

3. Explain the difference between a wired connection and a wireless connection. Why might a school choose to use wireless devices? (2 marks)

4. A 'server' is a powerful computer on a network. What is the main job of a server when many people are trying to access the same files? (2 marks)

5. If a laptop in the classroom cannot access the internet, list two things Kit should check to see if the network connection is working. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a simple network. Include a central server, three laptops, and a printer. Use lines to show how they all connect to the server.



Extension challenge: Research how the 'Internet' is different from a private school network. Write two sentences explaining how the internet acts as a 'network of networks'.