

Kit's Network Explorer Fact-File

Learning objective: To understand how computer networks connect devices to share information and resources.

Use this fact-file to help Kit the fox map out how computer networks work. Think about the devices you use at home or in school and how they connect to each other to send and receive data. Fill in each section using your own knowledge about networks.

Word bank: Internet · Server · Router · Data · Connection · Device · Wireless · Network

1. What is a network? Describe in your own words how a network allows different computers to talk to each other. (2 marks)

2. Identify three pieces of hardware you might find in a network (for example, a computer or a router) and explain what their job is. (3 marks)

3. What is the difference between a wired connection (using cables) and a wireless connection (using Wi-Fi)? (2 marks)

4. Why do we need a server in a large school network? What information might it store for us? (2 marks)

5. If the internet stopped working, what tasks could you still do on your computer, and what tasks would become impossible? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are designing a network for a brand new library. Draw a diagram showing how the librarian's computer, the printers, and the children's tablets all connect to the main router.