**What is GitHub? When was it created? Why? By who? What similar platforms exist? Why would you use such a platform? (Answer between 5 and 10 lines)**

**GitHub** is a Web-based Git repository hosting service. It offers all of the distributed revision control and source code management (SCM) functionality of Git as well as adding its own features.

The site was launched in April 2008 by [Tom Preston-Werner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom_Preston-Werner), Chris Wanstrath, and PJ Hyett after it had been made available for a few months prior as a beta period.

Bitbucket, Redmine, Gitlab and Launch pad are similar platforms as GitHub.

GitHub offers both plans for private [repositories](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Repository_(revision_control)) and free accounts which are usually used to host [open-source](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open-source) software projects.

**Define the following terms in the context of Git (2 lines maximum):**

* Repository

A repository is the most basic element of GitHub. They're easiest to imagine as a project's folder. A repository contains all of the project files (including documentation), and stores each file's revision history.

* Commit

A commit, or "revision", is an individual change to a file. It's like when you save a file, except with Git, every time you save it creates a unique ID that allows you to keep record of what changes were made when and by who. Commits usually contain a commit message which is a brief description of what changes were made.

* Push

Pushing refers to sending your committed changes to a remote repository such as GitHub.com. For instance, if you change something locally, you'd want to then push those changes so that others may access them.

* Branch

A branch is a parallel version of a repository. It is contained within the repository, but does not affect the primary or master branch allowing you to work freely without disrupting the "live" version. When you've made the changes you want to make, you can merge your branch back into the master branch to publish your changes.

* Fork

A fork is a personal copy of another user's repository that lives on your account. Forks allow you to freely make changes to a project without affecting the original. Forks remain attached to the original, allowing you to submit a pull request to the original's author to update with your changes.

* Merge

Merging takes the changes from one branch (in the same repository or from a fork), and applies them into another. This often happens as a Pull Request (which can be thought of as a request to merge), or via the command line.

* Clone

A clone is a copy of a repository that lives on your computer instead of on a website's server somewhere, or the act of making that copy. With your clone you can edit the files in your preferred editor and use Git to keep track of your changes without having to be online.

* Pull

Pull refers to when you are fetching in changes and merging them. For instance, if someone has edited the remote file you're both working on, you'll want to pull in those changes to your local copy so that it's up to date.

* Pull request

Pull requests are proposed changes to a repository submitted by a user and accepted or rejected by a repository's collaborators. Like issues, pull requests each have their own discussion forum. See [Using Pull Requests](https://help.github.com/articles/using-pull-requests).