

Smart
Alert
Strong
Kind
Brave

Be
Internet
Awesome.▲

Digital Safety and
Citizenship Curriculum
Updated June 2023

Welcome to the Be Internet Awesome curriculum, a collaboration between Google, The Net Safety Collaborative, and the Internet Keep Safe Coalition. This resource is part of the Be Internet Awesome program designed to help teach kids the skills they need to be safe and smart online.

This year, we've added 10 new activities to the curriculum. We partnered with the Committee for Children nonprofit organization to create new social-emotional learning activities to help guide children on their digital journeys. Additionally, we've added new lessons on search literacy and updated our safety and security activities to meet the needs of today's digital world. You'll also find activities categorized for specific grade levels to accommodate the wide spectrum of child development.

Notably, the Be Internet Awesome program has undergone a thorough evaluation by the University of New Hampshire's Crimes Against Children Research Center. As a result of the study, this is the first internet safety program proven to positively impact student learning on topics of online safety and digital citizenship.

The Be Internet Awesome curriculum is self-contained. All the activities are designed to be used with no prior professional development, minimal class prep and no special equipment or resources needed to teach them. Additionally, the lessons are reinforced through gameplay with Interland, an adventure-packed online game that makes learning about digital safety and citizenship interactive and fun—just like the internet itself.

Five fundamental topics of digital citizenship and safety form the Internet Code of Awesome:

- **Share with Care:** Digital Footprint and Responsible Communication
- **Don't Fall for Fake:** Phishing, Scams, and Credible Sources
- **Secure Your Secrets:** Online Security and Passwords
- **It's Cool to Be Kind:** Combating Negative Online Behavior
- **When in Doubt, Talk It Out:** Questionable Content and Scenarios

This curriculum was created for grades 2–6, however educators with both older and younger students have found value in the lessons, particularly with key vocabulary, class discussions (they age up or down), and gameplay. We encourage you to experiment to find what works best for your learners, whether that means completing the curriculum start to finish or going deep on one or two lessons most needed by your students. To complement the curriculum, you'll find additional educator and family resources—such as ready-to-teach Pear Deck slides, printable activities, and a family guide and tips for the home.

The International Society of Technology in Education (ISTE) completed an independent audit of Be Internet Awesome, recognizing the program as a resource that prepares young learners to meet the 2021 ISTE Standards for Students. ISTE has awarded Be Internet Awesome with the Seal of Alignment for Readiness.

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How to teach the curriculum

The Be Internet Awesome curriculum is flexibly designed so you can easily make it work in your classroom for your unique group of students. Depending on the time in your schedule and student readiness, we encourage you to tweak any lesson as needed. For example, we might recommend to facilitate an activity as a whole class but, knowing your students, you might feel that the activity would work better if they complete it in small groups. Those are the kinds of tweaks we hope you feel empowered to make. Work that teacher magic!

A few things about the curriculum:

1. Every unit has a list of vocabulary words that appear throughout the lessons. This list can be printed and provided to students as a resource. Be sure to check out the **Vocabulary Activities** we've provided in the following pages!
2. Each of the 5 units has a different number of lessons. Every lesson has the following structure:
 - ✓ **Goals for students**
 - ✓ **Let's talk**—background knowledge for teachers written in student-friendly language (in case you want to just read it to your students)
 - ✓ **Activity**—some activities may have a recommended grade-level modification.
 - ✓ **Takeaway**—summary of lesson content and opportunity for reflection.
3. Each lesson title will be marked with a symbol to indicate grade-level recommendation. It will also have a symbol if it is a Media Literacy and/or Social-Emotional Learning lesson.



Grades
2-6



Grades
2-3



Grades
4-6



Media
Literacy



Social-Emotional
Learning

4. This curriculum is designed for you to teach in two different ways: in the order in which the lessons appear or in an order that matches the particular digital learning needs of your own students. The units are purposefully sequenced for classrooms starting from scratch, but many elementary grade students know parts of this knowledge base and can help you discover the specific skills they want or need to develop. Talking with them about what they do and don't know would be a great place to start. We hope you all enjoy being **internet awesome** together!

Vocabulary Activities

The vocabulary used in these activities can be found at the beginning of each unit.

Tell Me More



Materials needed:

- Board to display vocabulary words (chalkboard, poster paper, whiteboard, etc.)

Directions

1. Students find a partner.
2. Partner 1 turns his or her back to the board (students can be seated or standing).
3. Teacher displays three to five vocabulary words on the board.
4. Partner 2 faces the board and explains the first vocabulary word to Partner 1 **without saying the vocabulary word**.
5. Partner 1 tries guessing the vocabulary word.
6. Once Partner 1 correctly guesses the first vocabulary word, Partner 2 moves on to describe the next word.
7. Continue steps 3–6 until Partner 1 correctly guesses all the words on the board.
8. For the next round, Partners 1 and 2 switch roles. Repeat the activity with new vocab words.

Be Internet Awesome Bingo



Materials needed:

- Handout: Be Internet Awesome bingo cards
- Game pieces (anything that can be used to mark a spot—small cubes, paper clips, beans, etc.)

Directions

1. Distribute **Be Internet Awesome bingo cards** (choose between a 5x5 or 3x3 bingo card) and game pieces to each student.
2. Students fill in bingo cards with vocabulary words from a given unit.
3. Teacher reads the **definition** of a vocabulary word.
Teacher can randomly pick definitions from the unit's vocabulary list.
4. Students search to see if the word that matches the definition is on their board and mark it with a game piece.
5. A student can call out "Bingo!" when every spot in a row, column, or diagonal has a game piece.
6. Continue playing with the current bingo cards, or have students remove all game pieces and play again.

Word Web



Materials needed:

- Handout: Word Web (page 8)

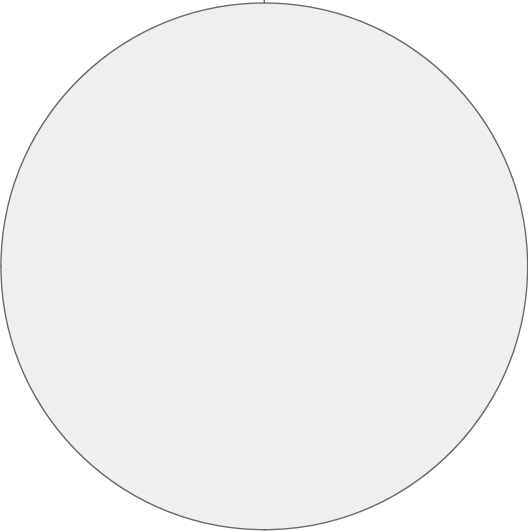
Directions

1. Each student finds one partner.
2. Distribute **Word Web** handout to each group (students can also re-create the Word Web handout on paper).
3. Students write one vocab word in the circle on the handout. You can implement this step in three different ways:
 - Assign the same vocab word for all groups.
 - Assign a different word to each group.
 - Students choose their own vocabulary word from the unit list.
4. Students then work with their partners to complete the handout.
5. Once completed, here are some ways you can extend this activity:
 - Students complete another Word Web for a new vocabulary word.
 - Collect completed handouts and display in the classroom on a word wall.
 - Host a gallery walk, where students see their classmates' Word Webs.

Be Internet Awesome bingo card (5x5)

Be Internet Awesome bingo card (3x3)

Word Web

Definition	Characteristics
	
Examples	Non-examples

Parent introduction email/letter template

Here's a template for an email or letter that you can customize to tell parents you're using Be Internet Awesome to help their kids learn to learn how to be safe, smart digital citizens.



Dear Parent,

When our kids are young, we do our best to help them get the most out of the internet while keeping them safe online. As children mature into teenhood, our role shifts to helping them learn to navigate the digital parts of their lives safely and thoughtfully.

At [school name], we believe in partnering with parents and preparing our [grade] students to:

- **Think critically** and evaluate apps, websites and other digital content.
- **Protect themselves** from online threats, including bullying and scams.
- **Get smart about sharing:** what, when, how, and with whom.
- **Be kind and respectful** toward other people online, including respecting their privacy.
- **Ask for help** with tricky situations from a parent or other trusted adult.

This year, these efforts will include Be Internet Awesome, a multifaceted program designed to teach kids the skills they need to be safe and smart online. One of the resources, Interland, is a browser-based game that makes learning these skills interactive and fun. It can be played at home too (your child might love to show you how it's done). Developed by Google in partnership with educators, researchers, and online-safety experts at The Net Safety Collaborative and iKeepSafe.org, Be Internet Awesome provides fun, age-appropriate learning experiences built around five foundational lessons:

- **Share with Care**
- **Don't Fall for Fake**
- **Secure Your Secrets**
- **It's Cool to Be Kind**
- **When in Doubt, Talk It Out**

Smart, safe technology use can enable students to drive their own learning and help our school function better. We believe this program will mark an important step toward our goal of ensuring that all our students at [school name] are learning, exploring, and staying safe online, both inside and outside the school walls.

We'll be happy to share more information about this new program, including introductions to some of the resources your student will start using in class, but we also invite you to check out the resources that go with it at g.co/BeInternetAwesome. We encourage you to ask your student about what they're learning and continue the conversation at home—and who knows, you just might pick up a few privacy and security tricks yourself!

Sincerely,
[You]

Frequently asked questions

Is it necessary to complete the lessons before having students play Interland?

No, but it can be helpful. The game is best when it reinforces what's learned with the curriculum—and it's more fun when students have had a chance to engage with you in discussions and brainstorms prior to the game play experience.

Do students need Google Accounts for Be Internet Awesome?

Nope! Be Internet Awesome is available to anyone who visits the site. Because Google does not gather any student data, Be Internet Awesome does not have or require any logins, passwords or emails.

What devices are compatible with Interland?

Interland works on any device that has an internet connection and a web browser. That means most any desktop or laptop computer, tablet, or mobile phone is ready to help students Be Internet Awesome.

What are all the URLs?

- For the Be Internet Awesome homepage, visit g.co/BeInternetAwesome.
- For the Interland game, visit g.co/Interland.
- For the Be Internet Awesome curriculum, visit g.co/BeInternetAwesomeEducators.
- For family resources, visit g.co/BeInternetAwesomeFamilies.

Do I need special training or to be a special kind of teacher to teach this curriculum?

- First: Any K–12 teacher can teach this curriculum to their students. No extra training is required.
- Second: Every teacher is special. :)
- Third: The lessons are optimized for fun, relaxed give-and-take between teacher and students, ideally with judgment-free active listening on the educator's part.

What grade level is Be Internet Awesome best suited for?

The full program, including the curriculum, the game, and the resources on the website, was designed for users from 2nd to 6th grade (ages 7–12). However, depending on how teachers tailor the curriculum, the topics can be helpful for any grade level.

How do kids learn from the game?

The game reinforces curriculum concepts by allowing them the freedom to explore healthy digital practices through play and understand digital interactions (and their consequences) in a safe, educational space.

Can each lesson be used in Google Classroom?

Yes, yes, and more yes. You can assign Interland to specific classes or sections, or make the resource available to all your students in the form of a class announcement.

Is there a shared folder or website with worksheet handouts easily accessible to project onto a whiteboard?

Yes—in the form of presentation decks. For the most current updates, we worked with Pear Deck to adapt the curriculum to slide decks for easy presentation, distribution, and sharing. You can find them at g.co/BeInternetAwesomeEducators.

Do I need to be a digital citizenship expert to use this program?

Not at all. The curriculum was designed so that any teacher can pick it up and teach it in their class. Furthermore, if you are interested in brushing up or learning more on digital safety and citizenship topics, you can take our online course for educators at g.co/OnlineSafetyEduTraining.

Is the Be Internet Awesome curriculum aligned with any national or state standards?

Glad you asked. Yes, it is. The curriculum is aligned with both ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education) and AASL (American Association of School Librarians) standards.

Can my students save their work on Interland?

Not in the current version, and that's not likely to change. Be Internet Awesome does not generate or store any personal identifiable information whatsoever—including savefiles. The reasons for this were purposeful—we do not collect student data, and we wanted the experience to be accessible to everyone—so it's not necessary to have an account, a login or a password.

That's good, but a lot of my students are proud they finished the game and of what they learned.

We hear you, and for that reason we have created a customizable certificate template so that you can enter a student's name and create a printable, personalized certificate of course completion for your students.

Where can I find the other educator resources?

All Be Internet Awesome educator materials can be found on our resources page at g.co/BeInternetAwesomeEducators.

Is there an online community of Be Internet Awesome users to share ideas or get help?

Yes! (And we love it.) We frequently share ideas and engage with teachers on Twitter. Please follow us to learn more about Be Internet Awesome and other topics at [@GoogleForEdu](https://twitter.com/GoogleForEdu).

