Beginners' Guide to Twitter

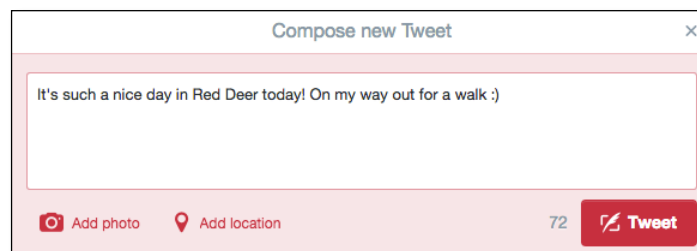## What's Twitter all about?

Twitter is a great conversation tool for sending and receiving short messages called "Tweets." You can post updates about yourself and have conversations with your friends. You can find and share local information, or learn about what's happening in the world. You can even keep tabs on your favorite celebrities or sports teams. Twitter can help you stay up to date with what's important to you, and all you have to do is sign up!

Getting Started

The first thing you need to do is sign up for a Twitter account at https://twitter.com. You will need to provide your name and email address, and you will need to choose a password and "username." All usernames begin with the **@** symbol.

Essentials

Tweet – All public messages on Twitter are called a "tweet." Tweets can include text, images, website links, locations, video, and audio. But, a tweet can only be 140 characters long, so you'll have to be concise!
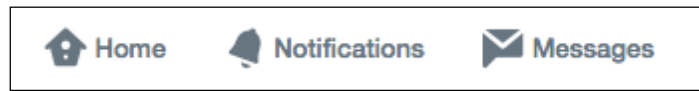

Follow – You can follow other Twitter users, and Twitter users can follow you. When you follow someone, their tweets will show up in your **Twitter feed**. You can also see who other Twitter users follow.

Mention – If you want to mention another Twitter user in your tweet, just include their username. If another Twitter user mentions you in a tweet, you will get a notification.

Direct Message – You can send and receive private messages using Twitter. These are called "Direct Messages." You can see your received direct messages and send new ones by going to "Messages."

Hashtag # - Hashtags add context to tweets, and using them will make your tweets easier to find by other Twitter users. Anything can be a hashtag. You can add hashtags by using the **#** symbol followed by some words. You can also search Twitter for hashtags.

Retweet (RT) – When you share someone else's tweet, it's called a "retweet." You can retweet any tweet by selecting the **retweet button**.

Favorite – You can "favorite" tweets you really like, so you can find them later. To favorite a tweet, just select the **star button**. You can find your favorite tweets later by going to your favorites list.

Reply – If you wish to comment on a tweet, you can use the **reply button**. By selecting the reply button, you are sending a public message to another Twitter user.