Information Systems Changes

Description: Interview grandparents and parents to find out the different types of information systems available when they were growing up and contrast these to the information systems we have today.

30 – 60 MINS	MEDIUM	AGES 5 - 8

ACTIVITY TYPE: INVESTIGATION

Image source: kalhh/ Pixabay

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You will need:

- [Information Systems worksheet](#)

- Pencil/pen

- Clipboard (optional)

Image source: mohamed_hassan/ Pixabay

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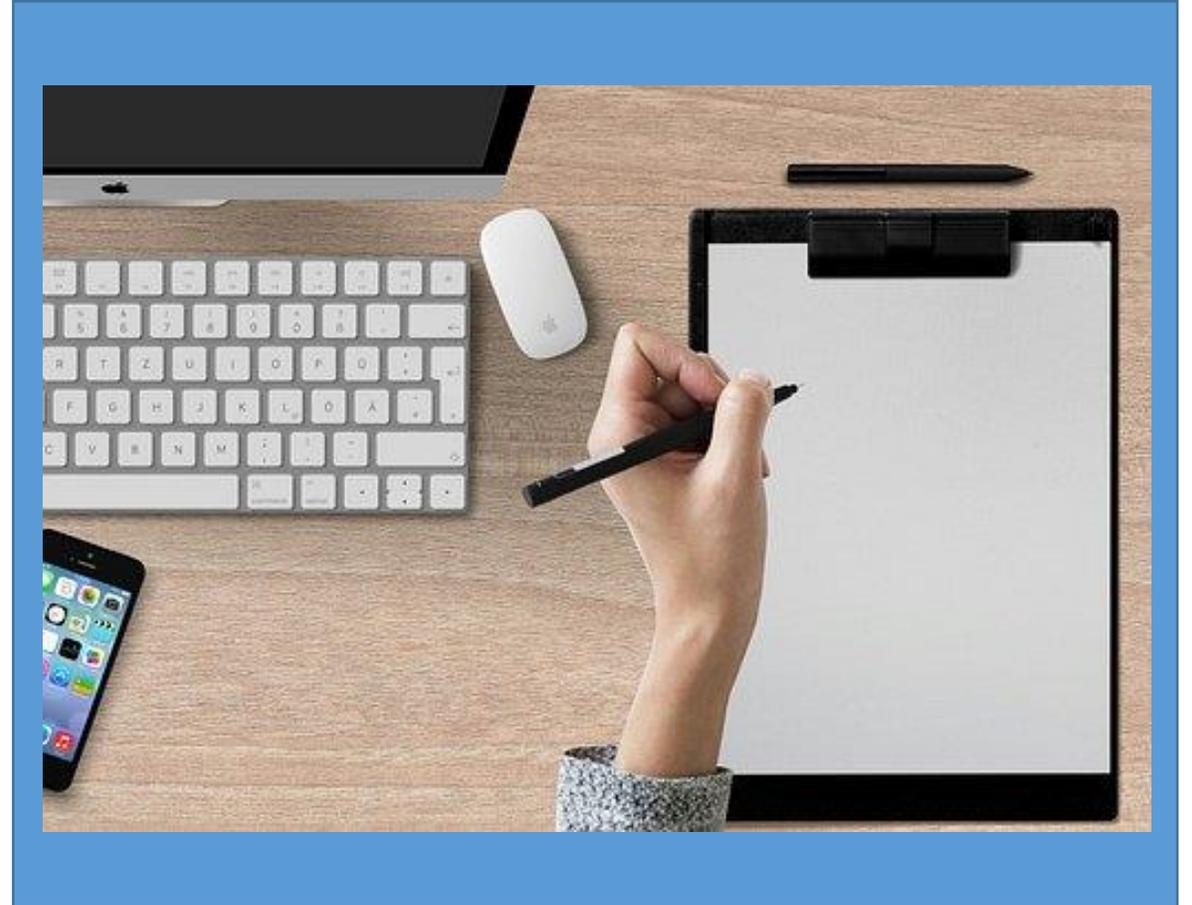
About the activity:

This activity is designed for children to explore the changes in different types of information systems over time.

Children can conduct an interview with their grandparents and parents to investigate the different types of information systems that were used for information, communication or recreation when they were young.

When finished interviewing, they can brainstorm the information systems they use today and look at the changes across the generations.

Image source: Tumisu/ Pixabay

Information systems, what's that?

- As the Australian Curriculum states, "an information system is a combination of digital hardware and software *components* (*digital systems*), *data*, processes and people that interact to create, control and communicate information." ([Australian Curriculum: Technologies glossary](#))

- An information system is generally made up of 4 elements – hardware, software, telecommunication and a database. In addition to these elements, often there needs to be a human involved to help set up or run the system.

- Some examples of everyday information systems are ATMs, traffic lights, eBay or payroll systems.

Image source: [TheDigitalArtist/ Pixabay](#)

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Let's get started...

1

- Before beginning the interview process, discuss the different types of information systems. Together brainstorm different information systems used for communication, information and recreation.

> **Good tip:** For detailed information for adults about information systems in society, look at https://bit.ly/2kOJCXE.

Image source: geralt/ Pixabay

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What's next…

2

- Start by interviewing grandparents about what information systems they used when they were young.

- Draw or write their responses on the worksheet.

Good tip: Ask your grandparents if they have any pictures of the information systems they used that they can show you.

Image source: Tumisu/ Pixabay

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What's next…

3

- Interview parents about the information systems they used when they were young.

- Draw or write their responses on the worksheet.

Good tip: Ask your parents if they have some information systems they used when they were younger, as they may be able to show you some of the older technology.

Image source: mohamed_hassan/ Pixabay

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What's next...

4

- It is now time to fill in the worksheet for the current generation.

- Draw or write your responses on the worksheet.

> **Good tip:** If needed, walk around the house to see the different information systems you have to help with ideas.

Image source: Fauno/ Pixabay

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Congratulations…

5

- All the information has been found. It is now time to look at the way information systems have changed over time.

- Ask questions like 'have they changed for better or for worse?' Why?

Good tip: You could even begin to predict some further changes to these three different types of information systems in the future and draw a picture of the invention.

Image source: mohamed_hassan/ Pixabay

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Resources

- The worksheet shown on the right has been prepared for you to take out and complete during your exploration.

- Alternatively, feel free to create your own way of recording your findings during the investigation.

Please note: a regular sized PDF version can be downloaded here.

Person	Information	Communication	Recreation
Grandparent			
Parent			
Me			

INFORMATION SYSTEMS INVESTIGATION

Image source: Worksheet created by L Barker

Why we are learning about this …

The term Information System refers to a "combination of digital hardware and software *components* (*digital systems*), *data*, processes and people that interact to create, control and communicate information." Source: [Australian Curriculum: Technologies glossary](#)

It is important for students to know what a information system is to help them understand how each of the elements work together. It is also important that they know the role each different system plays in our society.

To find out more … http://www.digitaltechnologieshub.edu.au/teachers/australian-curriculum/sequencing-the-curriculum

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