

Build a crafty computer

Encourage your young people to get to know the essential parts of a computer, and how those parts work, by building your very own model in your Lodges, Sixes or Patrols.

(An offline activity)

Suitable for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

You will need:

- A selection of craft materials or recycling items, such as pipe cleaners, string, empty egg boxes, cardboard boxes, paper, pens, scissors and glue

Instructions

1. Gather a good range of craft or recycling materials and place them in the middle of the room.
2. Explain to the young people that, working in groups, they are going to build a computer.
3. Assign each group a different part of the computer, providing them with a sheet that features an explanation and picture of that part. You can assign more than one part to each group. Get the young people to think about how they might divide the tasks between them.
4. Give each group 15 minutes to design their computer part and to think about how their part might function with the computer as a whole.
5. Once all the groups have finished, come back together so each group can showcase their work. Ask the young people to place the part they have built in the centre of the room and explain that part to the other groups.
6. Presenting one after the other, each group should attach their computer part to the model in the centre of the room. As they build onto the computer model they should explain how their part functions in the context of the overall computer.
7. In the end the young people will have built a model of a computer. They should be able to explain all the parts featured and how those parts work together.



TIME NEEDED

30 minutes

THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGE



Outcomes

Young people will be able to name the parts of a computer system and how they function together.

Appendix 1: Computer parts

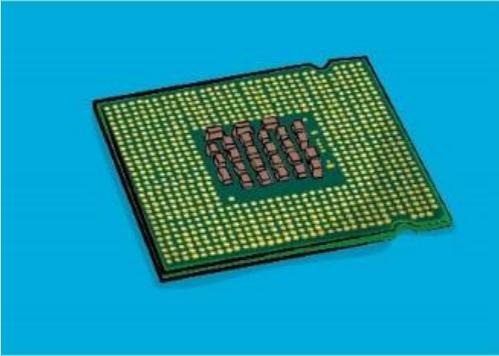
Mouse: a mouse is used to click and track movement on the screen. You can often see a small arrow, known as a cursor, that moves across the screen.



Keyboard: this is what you use to type letters and numbers.

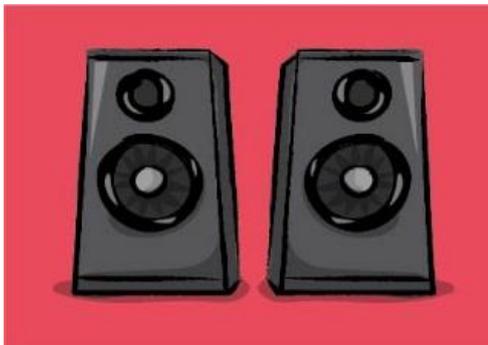


Monitor: a screen, similar to a TV, which displays pictures and data from your computer.



CPU: this is like the brains of the computer, it tells the rest of the computer what to do.

Hard drive: a storage unit on your computer where files and folders are kept. Although only a little bigger than your hand, a hard drive can store over 100 GB of data.



Speakers: this produces the sounds that you listen to.