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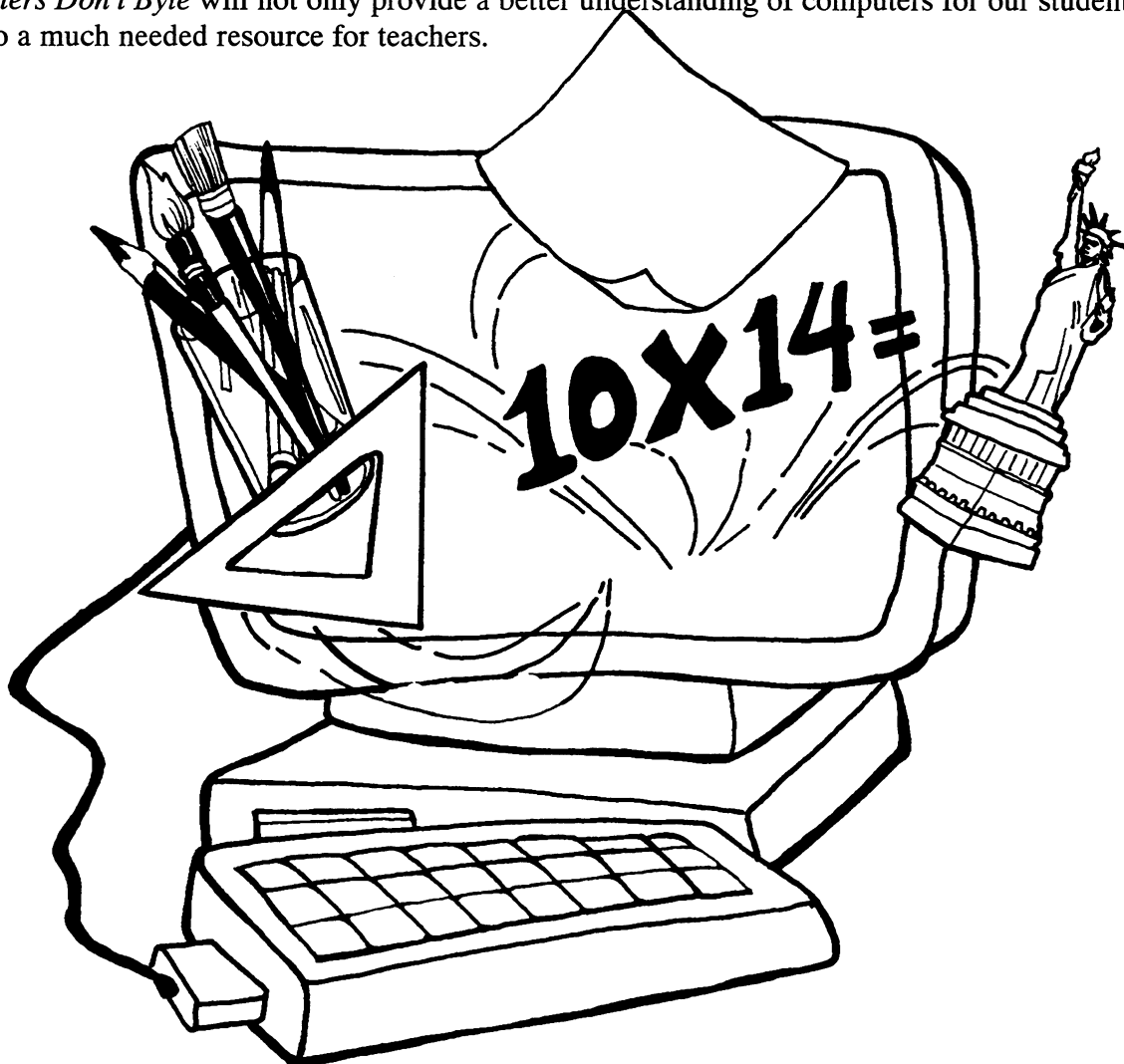
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Introduction

Computers Don't Byte, for intermediate students, has been written to provide a medium for teachers and students to help them understand the operational aspects of computers and thereby use them as invaluable tools with wide and diverse areas of application. *Computers Don't Byte* will also serve as an instructional guide in fostering computer literacy and proficiency, with the ultimate hope of reducing fears and/or anxieties towards effective use of computers. This will be accomplished by making students aware of the powerful capabilities computers have to offer as workable tools and by improving the quality of learning and instruction.

Computer technology will be part of our children's futures, and we as educators must provide opportunities that meet their present and future needs. This student activity book is related to cognitive computer basics and understanding. It will benefit students by adequately providing them with a basic understanding of how computers influence their lives and society as a whole.

Computers Don't Byte will not only provide a better understanding of computers for our students but also a much needed resource for teachers.



A Computer Is a Machine

A computer is an electronic machine. It can help you with your work. It can help you write, draw, count, and even solve problems. You may think that a computer is very smart, but in actuality it is not smart at all. Because it is a machine, it can only do what people tell it to do. However, computers work very quickly and accurately and never get tired like you and me.

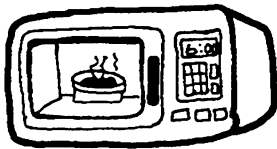
Computers are machines.

They help you and me.

They are lots of fun.

I hope you agree!

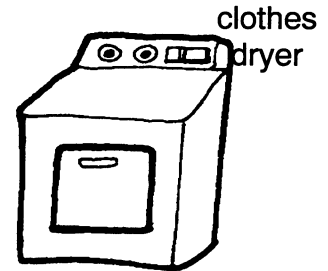
Activity: Circle the pictures below which are also machines. Put an X on the pictures that are not machines.



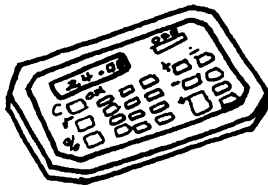
microwave



flower



clothes
dryer



calculator



baseball



video game system

Now think of three other machines that you use to help you to do your work or accomplish a task. Name the machine and then explain how it helps you.

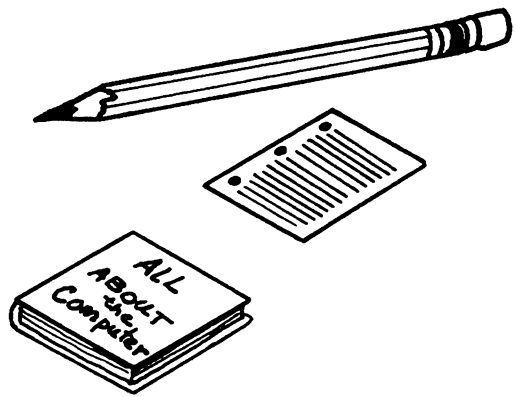
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Extension: Allow your students to name other machines they see and use every day. Stress that these machines all have special jobs. For example, a stove is used to cook food.

A Computer Is a Tool

A computer is a tool that is used to do work. A tool is something you hold in your hands that helps you complete a task or a job. If you think hard enough, you can probably think of many tools you use each day. For example, in school you use pens and pencils to write and crayons to draw. At home you use forks to eat, a toothbrush to brush your teeth, and a comb or brush to comb your hair.

If your teacher asks you to write a paragraph on what you know about computers. What tools would you need? List them below.



A computer is also a tool that you can use to help you accomplish a job. Computers can help you write a report for school or a letter to a friend. They can calculate numbers and teach you maths. They can help you learn just about anything you want. You can even create art and music with the help of a computer.

Activity: On the lines below, write a paragraph stating how you can use, or have used, a computer as a tool to help you do your work.

Extension: Ask your students to list all the tools they use every day. Can anyone list more than 50?

What Can a Computer Do?

There are many times when a computer appears to be intelligent. Do you think that a computer is really smart? It may appear that way, but in reality a computer is not smart at all. A computer is only a machine and a tool. It must be told what to do. You must give it a set of instructions in order for it to work. However, a computer can work very quickly and accurately and never get tired.

Always remember that you are smarter than a computer.

A computer:

- cannot think for itself
- does not have any feelings
- cannot show any emotion
- does not have the ability to form opinions
- cannot make decisions

Activity: Look at the diagram below. Draw lines from the computer to the things that a computer can do.



do maths quickly

laugh at a joke

decide which program to put into the disk drive

help you type a report for school

feel hungry

think about what it will do tomorrow

never get tired

follow your directions

play music and even talk if it has the right program

eat lunch with you

get angry

Extension: Compare yourself and a computer.