

Welcome to Cyberspace

C'mon in. Take your shoes off and leave everything you think you already know at the door. You're about to embark on a wonderful journey through a world without boundaries. It's a world where anything can happen and anyone can appear. It's a world that you, along with millions of other people around the globe, will call home. With some help from us, of course.

This guide is chock full of resources that will help you to:

- Find out just what the Internet, World Wide Web and Cyberspace are. (Hint: they're pretty much the same thing.)
- Communicate with friends and relatives anywhere in the world (yes, unfortunately, even Uncle Bernie).
- Find friends who are interested in the same things you like.
- Learn everything from astronomy to zoology from thousands of information databases and libraries (where you can talk as loud as you want).
- Download games, books, information, articles and even computer programs for free. Hear news and sport practically as it happens.
- Play the latest games against the computer or people in different countries.
- Shop in a range of unique stores to buy everything from paintball guns to baseball cards.
- Research every subject you could possibly dream of - including dreams.
- Build your very own website (where you finally get to make the rules).
- Visit zoos and museums around the globe.
- Take a virtual trip to every imaginable spot on earth (including that biggest ball of twine).
- Take classes from online schools, universities or organisations.
- Chat with people from next door or across the continents.
- Access organisations or find that special shoelace collecting group.
- Read full-length books (or even short ones).
- Listen to historical speeches or your favourite tunes.
- Watch live video and animation.
- Have more fun than you could possibly imagine.

Travelling through cyberspace is an exciting adventure with no speed limits, and just like those family trips, you're going to need to bring a few things along for the journey: a willingness to learn and an adventurous spirit; a sprinkle of wisdom to know where to click and when to skip; an ability to evaluate what is a time stealer and what is a time stopper; and, snacks, plenty of snacks - hey, it's a great big virtual world out there and virtual food is about as appetising as last night's liver.

Keep in mind, though, that travelling the Internet is like wandering through a foreign country. You're going to encounter a new language and become overwhelmed with all of the new things to see and do. Soon, you'll be a veteran traveller and will be able to enjoy all the sights and sounds of this new frontier. Don't be surprised if you get lost. (Sometimes, that's half the fun.) So, remember, don't get discouraged.

We've carefully selected the best of the best websites for kids just like us. And believe us, if it kept this tough group interested long enough to write down the website, then it's definitely worth checking out. Before you start with all of these best places to see in cyberspace, take a walk through our chapters to find out what the Internet is, how it got started and the many ways you can use it. As always, remember to have fun.



My Rules for Online Safety

1. I will not give out any personal information such as my address, telephone number or parents' places of work.
2. I will not give out the addresses, telephone numbers or names of my school or after-school activities.
3. I will tell my parents immediately if I see anything or anyone that makes me feel uncomfortable.
4. I will never agree to get together with someone I met online without first checking with my parents.
5. I will never send a person my picture or anything else personal without first checking with my parents.
6. I will not respond to any messages that are mean or that in any way make me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get a message like that. If I do, I will tell my parents right away so that they can report it to the online service.
7. I will talk with my parents so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide upon the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online, and appropriate areas for me to visit.
8. I will not access other areas or break these rules without my parents' permission.

Animals

ÆS Bug Club Home Page

<http://www.ex.ac.uk/bugclub/welcome.html>

Do you want to Cuddle a Cockroach, Stroke a Stick Insect or Hug a Harvestman? Then this Bug Club site is just for you. This site has information that will 'insect' you with bug fever.



The Adventures of Alex

<http://www.alextheape.com>

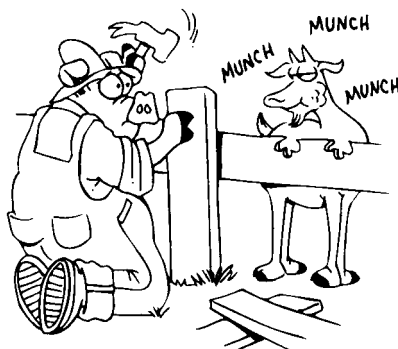
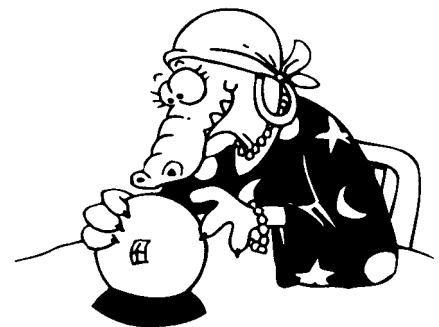
Travel north of nowhere and west of wherever to Comfort Cove, home of Alex the Ape, the khaki-clad environmental hero. Together with his Creature Comforts Crew, Alex protects his Mystic Jungle homeland from any and all evil forces. C'mon along as these jungle jammers enter their next wild adventures.



Animal Connection

<http://www.cyberark.com>

Ever wanted to talk to the animals? Discover the fascinating world of interspecies telepathic communication and find out how to naturally cure your pet's ailments. For the true animal lover.



At The Farm

<http://miksike.com/unit>

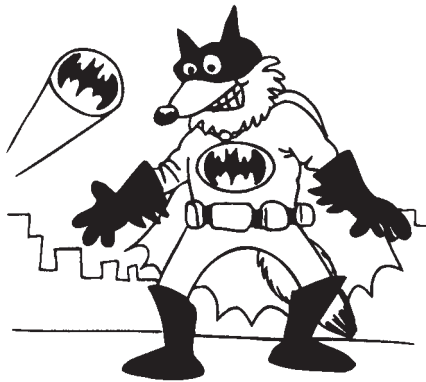
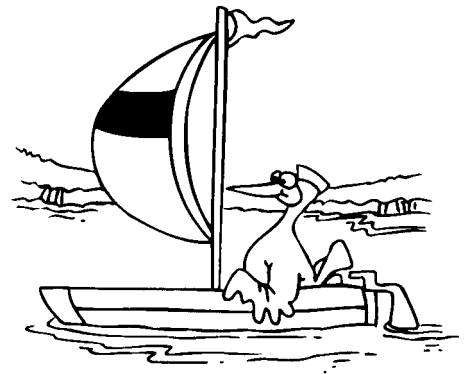
Old McDonald's farm was nothing like this! Take an interactive journey with Margarita as she discovers everything there is to know about living on a farm from pig farming to crop cultivation. You'll be wearing suspenders and a straw hat in no time.

Fun & Games

The Adventurers

<http://www.swp.com/adventurers>

The Adventurers is a series of stories about little folks known as, well, The Adventurers. Yes, they do have adventures. They get in trouble, battle the Grubby Gang and have all of the appropriate lessons about the eternal pull between good and evil. You can even become your own 'adventurer'.



The Adventures of Superman and Batman

<http://www.batman-superman.com>

Two of the most beloved superheroes come together in this powerhouse of a website.

All Magic Guide

<http://allmagic.com/allmagicguide>

A guide to everything about the hobby and art of magic. Learn the secrets of the art and how you can become a magician.



BCPL Kids' Page

<http://www.bcpl.lib.md.us/kidspage/kidspage.html>

The Baltimore County Library special kids' page. Famous author interviews and lots of outside links. Ask questions about your favourite pets.