

Instructional Scenario

What's Inside My Computer?



Course/Duty Area: Programming/Exploring Programming Concepts

Scenario: You want to build your own computer so you can save some money and customize what you build. Your parents won't pay for the parts you need until you demonstrate your understanding of the challenge you're taking on. So, before you can build a computer, you need to know what is inside a computer and how those parts connect to do what computers do (e.g., receive input, store information, process information, and give output).

Big Question: How do all the parts of a computer relate to each other?

Focused Questions:

- What is a motherboard?
- What is a hard drive?
- What is RAM, and where does it fit in a computer?
- What are expansion slots, and for what are they used?
- What is a power supply?
- What is the central processing unit (CPU)?

Student Project or Outcome:

Students research parts of a computer, noting what specific job they do and how they relate to each other. Students create a video identifying and describing each part inside a computer.

Teacher Resources:

A desktop computer unplugged and opened so students can see inside.

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