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Things to do in minecraft pe

Minecraft is and, for the foreseeable future, will remain one of the most popular video games among children. Behind all these millions on millions of downloads are more than a few curious parents; read on as we help to clean up some misunderstandings and give curious parents a crash course in the game. We've written a lot about Minecraft here at How-To Geek, but not everyone is interested in taking an in-depth look at Minecraft as a potential player. Some people like parents, teachers or curious relatives of eager young players just want a crash course that provides a general overview of the game, a better understanding of the electronic elements of the Minecraft experience, and a general sense of what the game entails. Let's take a look at Minecraft from the perspective of a curious parent and drive through (hopefully) everything they want to know about Minecraft to better understand the game kids are currently obsessed with (or desperately want them to buy). We want to emphasize the crash course before proceeding. This article is intended to take someone from knowing nothing about Minecraft to having a basic understanding of what the game is with an emphasis on delivering the content for parents, guardians and other adults in the life of a child interested in the game. If you want a more detailed look at the game (either as a potential player or a parent who is truly committed to learning ins and out), we would strongly suggest that you start with our 15-part introduction to Minecraft and then follow up by browsing our general Minecraft articles. Between our introductory series and subsequent articles we have practically written an 80,000-plus dictionary on the subject and reading through our collection will take you from a total beginner to Minecraft mastery. What is Minecraft? Let's start with the most basic question (but it's not really that basic): what exactly is Minecraft? Many parents watch Minecraft and are confused by the game. Basics Minecraft is a sandbox game created by Swedish programmer and gamer Markus Notch Persson. The game was further developed under Persson's guidance of mojang and in 2014 Mojang was acquired by Microsoft. The game is procedurally generated and focused on resource collection, crafting objects, building and (at the player's discretion) match. Sandbox? Procedurally generated? Let's break down these terms for the unknown. Linear games are the kind of games most of us think of when we think of video games. You start the game, you go through level one, then level two, and so on, complete goals and pass through new levels until you reach the end of the game. This is the formula for almost all video games out and certainly the formula for most of the best-selling games of the past thirty years. Sandbox games are effectively the opposite of linear games. Sandbox games allow you to do practically anything (within the limitations of the game engine) just as a real sandbox allows you to build and play as you wish. You can play as you like in the sandbox, build what you want, and guide your game to be the game you want it to be. Whether you want to explore far and wide, build a giant castle, play hide and seek with your friends, collect all the elements of the game, or whatever else your heart desires, sandbox games afford the kind of varied game that extends far beyond the traditional Beat level one. Get the magic element. Turn level two, and so on. Procedural generation is an important part of this gaming experience. Again, unlike most other video games where the game and player's experience are carefully cultivated and scripted, the Minecraft experience is different. Every Minecraft map, the space players play and explore in, is unique— every single one. The game's engine combined with seeds (a player delivered or randomly generated alphanumeric string) generates a unique world filled with different biomes, caves, creatures and more. This does what you want sandbox experience combined with the world is almost infinite! Process generation provides a game where you have the ability to play whatever you want with almost endless space and resources to do so. The very element of the game that causes many people to sit back and ask What's the point? is exactly what makes it attractive to so many children and adults. It's a game that doesn't come with a rulebook, any instructions, or even the slightest bit of guidance on what the player should (or shouldn't) do. Just learning the ropes is a rewarding and fun experience in itself. As LEGO blocks it is play for fun. Players start the game as a generic player, a castaway if you want, who wakes up on the newly generated map and must break blocks to collect resources, use the blocks to create tools, and then use those tools to continue breaking multiple blocks, building and exploring all the time. What players do with that all the time is really the beauty of Minecraft. You can build a castle, explore the oceans, recreate your garden (or your entire hometown), or whatever your creative heart desires. What can you play it on? Minecraft is available on multiple platforms, and each platform is slightly different. Let's take a look at the different ways you can play Minecraft and what varies between them. In each section below, we've included a link to the Minecraft wiki entry on each of the game editions for your reference and further reading. Minecraft PC Edition Minecraft PC Edition is the edition that Alt. It's also the most sophisticated version with the most advanced components and elements of the game, better support for multiple players and the overall superior Minecraft experience. It can run on any platform that can run Java and prepackaged binaries are available for Windows and Mac OS X (the Linux version is only the kernel Java code and you are responsible for installing and starting it yourself). The PC edition retails for $26.95; a demo mode is available if you want to test out the game and ensure that your computer has the right hardware. Although Minecraft looks like a simple game behind the scenes procedure generation and physics is quite resource-intensive, and we recommend that parents try the game out first to make sure it goes smoothly on their computers. In addition to supporting several standard components and elements of the game as well as larger gaming worlds, Minecraft PC Edition also supports modding. Modding allows players to introduce new elements to the game (other dimensions to explore, tools and resources in the game and other improvements). Minecraft PC Edition modding community is huge and very active. Minecraft Pocket Edition Minecraft Pocket Edition is the mobile edition for Android, iOS and (quite recently) Windows Phone; it retails for $7. Compared to the PC Edition, it's pretty easy. Many items from PC Edition are missing (the extra dimensions found in the PC edition are missing, there is no hunger in survival mode, and so on). Despite the missing elements and smaller worlds, Pocket Edition is extremely popular, and millions of players around the world get their minecraft solution via mobile devices and not on a full-fledged computer. Pocket Edition supports both local and external multiplayer games. However, it's worth adding that remote multiplayer support on Pocket Edition is buried in a submenu, and that most kids playing the game aren't even aware that the game supports anything other than single player or local multiplayer. Pocket Edition can technically modded but the modding community is almost nonexistent and it's a big problem to mod it. Minecraft Console Edition The Console Edition retails for $20 and is available for Xbox 360, Xbox One, PlayStation 3, PlayStation 4 and PlayStation Vita. Although Console Edition got off to a rough start (different versions on different console platforms had significant differences), all versions are synced now, and Console Edition has a very great feature that doesn't exist on PC or Pocket Edition: local split-screen multiplayer. There are a number of differences between the other two editions, but console edition definitely comes closer to the overall Minecraft PC Edition experience than Pocket Edition. Console Edition can, again technically just like pocket be modded but modding society is even smaller and modding console games is very difficult; practice is so rare and so difficult that Console Edition should effectively be considered immature. Console Edition supports multiplayer, but the player must be signed in to an Xbox or PlayStation user account that currently has a paid subscription online (e.g. Xbox Live Gold or PlayStation Plus). Without a paid online subscription to the console's respective service, there is no online gaming. If you don't have a paid subscription, don't worry about your child coming online. What are the game modes? In addition to understanding the basics of the overall game, it helps to understand the available game modes (especially if you're a parent trying to help a child enjoy the game more). We detailed minecraft game modes a lot in the Minecraft lesson Explore Minecraft game modes if you want to take an undepth look, but a simple overview should be enough for most people. The game mode you choose has a significant impact on your gaming experience, and in the context of children playing the game, has a huge impact on levels of frustration. Picking the right gamemode for your child's developmental abilities and personal temperament will go a long way toward keeping frustrated tears at bay. Creative mode Creative mode, as the name implies, is focused on creative play. Players have access to endless resources, can fly, can not be harmed by things in the game like lava, drowning or aggressive mobs, and they are free to go where they want to go. The mode is essentially like playing with virtual LEGO blocks that never run out. This mode is ideal for children, as there is nothing to scare them (no aggressive mobs will spawn and attempt to attack them), there are tons of resources, and there is no pressure to survive (you don't have to collect food, ward off hunger or struggle to find limited resources like wood). Survival Mode Survival Mode is more like a traditional video game in that you have health (which can be lost) and you need to collect resources (such as food, wood, coal, etc.) to survive. In addition to working towards your survival in a player-to-nature scenario, Survival Mode also introduces aggressive mobs such as spiders and zombies that come out at night and will attack the player. Although the aggressive mobs are as blocky as the rest of Minecraft (and not even as scary as anything you can find in a Scooby Doo cartoon) young children can find the hostile creatures both frustrating and terrifying. Parents with young children interested in Minecraft are advised to start them in creative mode, and as both their reflexes and sensitivities mature, they move them to survival mode if they are interested. You may die in survival mode, but you respawn back on spawning point (or the last bed you slept in). You lose experience and equipment, but you are never permanently dead; Giving in to a hostile mob or a fall off a cliff is just a minor setback. In survival mode, you can set the difficulty level. The difficulty ranges from Peaceful (where you still need to survive, but there are no hostile mobs) to Easy/Normal/Hard where there are enemy mobs and they have increasing health and dealing with increasing damage based on how hard you've done the game. RELATED: Survive your first night in survival mode if you, your child, or all of you have a tough time getting started in survival mode, definitely check out our tutorial Surviving Your First Night in Survival Mode. If you can make it through the first night you are in a great position to do it through all those that follow. If you're playing on your PC, a way to transfer a child to survival mode is to switch between the in-game variable that retains equipment and items after death (instead of leaving them on the spot of the player's death). Hardcore Mode Hardcore Mode is, as the name implies, well, hardcore. It's just like survival mode, except that you only have one life to live. If you fall into lava, be attacked by a mob of zombies, or crush yourself in a mechanical unit of your own creation, the game is over. Not only do you lose all your things, but the world you explored and built up is permanently erased. Dying and losing gear in a video game is frustrating enough as it is, but in a game like Minecraft where you spend so much time exploring, collecting resources and building really cool things, the idea of dying and losing everything is a little too much for most kids. We would strongly recommend management ready by Hardcore Mode unless you have an older boy who knows exactly what they are getting into. Again, if you want a more quiet look at the different game modes, we would encourage you to check out our lesson on the subject. Is it child-friendly? In the sense that kids absolutely love it, minecraft is obviously child-friendly. When adults talk about child-friendlyness, what we're really talking about is how appropriate the content is for different age groups. Let's take a look at the two most pressing kid-friendly issues when it comes to considering a video game: content and online interactions. Video game violence As far as video game violence goes, yes, Minecraft has some, but no, it's not graphic. In creative mode, you can play without beating anything or anyone. You don't have to kill passive mobs (like sheep or cows) to get the items they release, nor do you have to fight enemy mobs (because they never spawn and any item they can drop, you can get from the Creative Mode inventory screen). Moreover, in Creative mode nothing tries to attack you, so there is not even a threat of violence in any form if the player wants to play Conflict. In survival mode, the player can take damage from the environment (such as burns from lava or fall damage) as well as damage from creatures in the game such as enemy zombies, spiders and skeletons. The match in the game is bloodless, and despite the challenge at times, (visually speaking) amounts to about as much graphics as hitting a pinata with a stick. Players whack, whack and whack at the creature, and it only cools over when health is exhausted leaving behind the loot it may or may not let in some pixelated puff of smoke. Even if we do not find this degree of violence in a video game problematic and easily let our children play the game, if you want to remove any violent conflict from the game we would advise you to either have your child play on creative mode or set up a Survival Mode game for them and put the difficulty to Peaceful; This ensures the hunt, collect and survive the Robinson Crusoe experience, if you will, but without enemy mobs. A final note about video game violence, if you have multiple children playing together on a locally shared game be aware that players can attack each other in the game. If you have siblings or friends prone to antagonizing each other, you would want to preemptively talk about this (or set up a home server with player-versus-player match turned off via the pvp variable in the server.properties file). Multiplayer and Online Play Speaking of multiplayer games and PVP combat, one of the first things on any parent's mind when it comes to video games is Can my child come online with this game and who will they meet? Minecraft has a thriving online community with thousands on thousands of servers. You can have a rich and rewarding Minecraft experience without playing on an external multiplayer server, but many kids want to play online (and there are some really cool servers out there to explore). Let's run through the available ways you can play local and remote Minecraft. Local Multiplayer There are several ways to play local Minecraft games (and locally we mean with players who are on the same local area network). Minecraft Pocket Edition players can easily host a game by simply opening their game to the local network, where everyone on the same Wi-Fi network can join and play. When you see a bunch of kids grouped along with tablets and phones playing Minecraft this is likely what they are up to. There are local Minecraft Pocket Edition servers you can host on a network connected to your computer, but there's no official release from Mojang, and the third-party servers are a bit bulky (although it's fun to play with). Minecraft Console Edition players can always turn on split-screen multiplayer, enabling tandem games by the same players who use the same console. Both Xbox and PlayStation support up to four local players on the same console via split screen. Xbox players can also participate in LAN games with up to eight players if there is a new Xbox on the local network (four players on one machine, four players on the other). Local network play is currently not available on PlayStation. Minecraft PC Edition players have two options for sharing a local game. They can load a regular Minecraft game and open the game to the local network for other players to join, or they can host either a local server. Online Multiplayer In addition to the local multiplayer section, there are two ways to participate in remote multiplayer games: private servers (purchased and/or hosted by you or a Minecraft server hosting company) or public servers (available to everyone). The first option is a great way to set up a persistent server that your child and their friends have access to from anywhere in the world. You can make this as simple as just signing up for Realms, the official Minecraft server host provided by Mojang, or you can go the more advanced routes and buy a Minecraft hosting package (or even roll your own if you're a tech savvy kind of parent). If you are interested in letting your child play online with their friends using a server, you have explicit control over definitely check out our article How to choose an external Minecraft Host. The second option, and by far the most popular, is to simply join an existing multiplayer server with a theme you like. There are Minecraft servers for just about every theme under the sun. You can find Pokemon-themed Minecraft servers, servers with medieval barter systems, servers dedicated only to creative play and construction, servers dedicated only to mini games, and even servers devoted to player-on-player combat where something goes. If you plan to let your children play online with other players, we would strongly encourage you to carefully review our highly detailed treatment of the topic found in Explore Minecraft Multiplayer Servers. Fortunately for worried parents, Minecraft servers tend to be very well moderated and very well bounded in their different types. For example, most servers do not allow player-verse-playing matches (and if they do they have dedicated areas for arena combat and the like). Moreover, it understood that many children play Minecraft (although it is popular among adults) and most server administrators and operators are very intolerant of vulgar behavior or grief (antagonizing a player, destroying player creations or parts of the map, etc.). There are even whitelisted family servers where you have to directly apply to play, and only whitelisted players are allowed in (and all players who violate the family-friendly rules on the server are booted). If you are looking for such you will include whitelist and family friendly in Google search. Here are some family-friendly servers to get started: Cubeville, The Sandlot and Crazy Pig. In short, we've been playing Minecraft online for years (as have our children), and we have no traumatic or terrible experiences to report. Outside of time we have spent on a server specifically dedicated to chaos (known as Anarchy servers) where everything from PVP to grief was allowed we have never run into any serious problems. That said, even though we've never had a Hey boy, where do you live? experience on a Minecraft server, it is never too early to start instructing your children not to talk to strangers online and never share personal information. Malware: The Real Minecraft Threat We've talked about cartoon-like violence in the game and the online player experience (both issues parents are very interested in), but now it's time to talk about an issue that most parents are completely blindsided by: Minecraft malware. The game itself is completely safe and you will never have any problem with malware in the actual Mojang delivered software, but, unfortunately, there are many people out there willing to prey on the naivety of children to infect your computer or device with malware. Kids love Minecraft, and they love searching for new Minecraft shells, maps and mods. While there are plenty of legitimate sites out there that directory and rank all these great Minecraft additions there are plenty of very shady sites that lead to virus-laden software downloads. We can't count the number of times we've been enlisted by a neighbor to fix the computer after their child accidentally downloaded malware masked as a legitimate Minecraft add-on. The best thing you can do to keep your computer safe while your child can enjoy Minecraft is to just give them access to a non-administrative account so they can't run malware even if they come across it. The next best thing you can do is sit down with them and talk about how there are unethical people out there who want to trick them into downloading software that would damage your computer and to give them a list of Minecraft sites they can visit and check out without risking an infection. If you're looking for a list of legitimate websites you can share with your child (or use yourself), we encourage you to check out our guide: How to re-style Minecraft World with resource packs. When in doubt, always stick to the official Minecraft forums. Is it good for children? So far in our parent's guide to Minecraft, we've stuck to the facts of the matter: game versions, server types and so on. A question that comes up more often than not when we talk to other parents (especially those who have children recently enthused with Minecraft) is it good for them? After all We've logged playing Minecraft ourselves, watching our kids play and playing with our kids, we're going to give a very resounding and strongly opinionated: Yes, yes it is. Not all video games are the same, and there are lots of really stupid video games out there, but time and time again minecraft has proven to be not only a fun game for our kids to play (which we'd like to join), but a valuable game to play. The game encourages a variety of positive and prosocial behaviors. We've seen our kids gather together with their friends time and time again, and over the course of playing together, devote time to planning what they want to build, measuring out spatial relationships and resources, sharing labor, and otherwise actively working together to achieve a team's project is. When kids aren't actively playing Minecraft, they talk about it, share Minecraft articles with each other and read these articles to learn more about Minecraft. Our first family survival world Furthermore, Minecraft is a game that plays explicitly to your strengths. Whatever you like to do, no matter what you have a knack for, you can find a way to incorporate it into your own household, everyone plays Minecraft, and during the game everyone is able to take on a role that they like (which is something more than you can say for just about every other video game out there). Instead of each person playing out the same role (e.g. Tonight we play a fighting game! where everyone is a street fighter) Minecraft allows people to focus on what interests them and what they're good at. When we play, I get the most pleasure from exploring the map and defending our bases and camps from enemy mobs. My wife loves to mine and will prepare elaborate underground constructions in search of the best ore and diamonds. My daughter absolutely loves building and stocking farms as well

as forging weapons and armor to stock our supply chests. In a typical video game there is no way we could accommodate all these playing styles and wanted while we are still playing the same game. In Minecraft, it's not only possible, but actually beneficial to have players interested in taking on different roles. You're free to disagree, of course (and if you have a child throwing a fit when it's time to put down the virtual blocks and pick up the school books you certainly have a reason to be unhappy with the game), but we'll stand by our assessment that Minecraft is a positive game that encourages everything from prosocial teams building behavior to an interest in programming. At this point, if you came to this article brand new to Minecraft, you know just enough to have a rough idea of what the game is about, different ways of playing it, and how your kids can play it both on the local network and the wider Internet. Despite how However, the game seems to be so much going on in the basic game, so much accessible via modding, playing created maps and more, as well as such a thriving Minecraft community that we really encourage you to read throughout our entire 15-part Minecraft series, as well as the other Minecraft articles we've published to help round out your understanding of the game (as well as give you bunchs of fun ideas for Minecraft activities you can participate in with Minecraft lovers in life yours). service life).