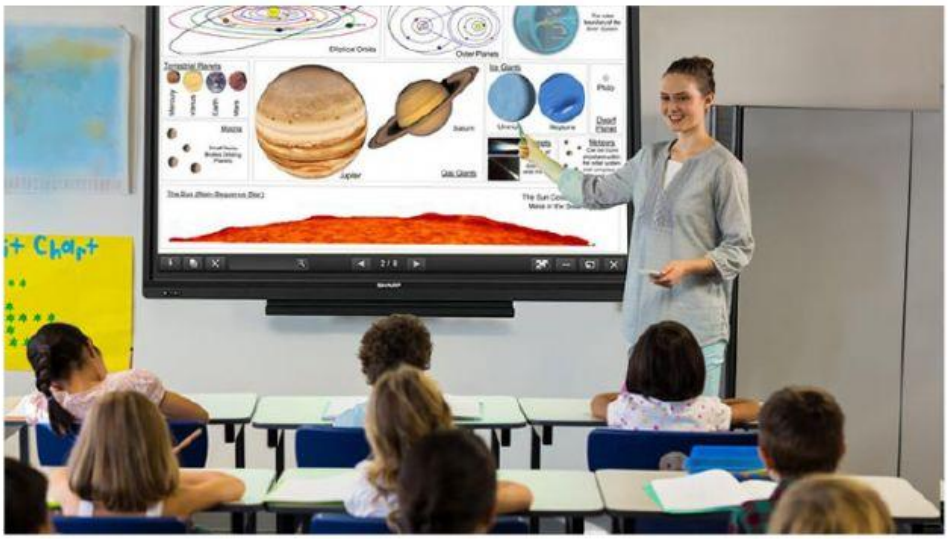
Reading 2

Skills:

- Details

Getting started: Have you ever used a Smart Board?

SMART BOARDS



A Smart Board is a modern tool that is widely used in academic and work environments. It is basically an interactive whiteboard with a touch screen. It was first introduced in 1991 as a way for presenters to control Windows-based applications easily. Smart Boards are finding their way into classrooms, training sessions, conferences and board meetings. The environment allows instructors and presenters to control a presentation in a more flexible way than just sitting behind a computer and projector.

Using and connecting a Smart Board is very easy and uncomplicated. The projector and Smart Board are connected to the computer. Through the projector, an image of the computer screen is displayed on the Smart Board. The Smart Board then takes it a step further and acts as an interactive touch screen monitor for the computer. By touching the Smart Board, the user is able to click on buttons, highlight text and drop and drag items right from the Smart Board.

The Smart Board can be connected to the computer either wirelessly or through cables. The wireless connection works the same as Wi-Fi or Bluetooth. Connecting through cables can be done with either a USB or serial ports. Using a wireless connection is preferred for larger rooms because it reduces the chances of accidents as you may trip over twisted cables. The projector is then connected to the computer. As you supply all three items with power, you are then ready to go.

Smart Boards come with different options for the screen type and resolution just like choosing a television set. You can either get a flat-panel or projection screen. The additional options for flat-panel are either plasma or LCD. For the projection, you can choose rear- or front-projection screens. There are also some elements that can be used for the Smart Boards such as pen tools, software, video player, recorder, on-screen keyboard and screen shade.

The resistive technology used in Smart Boards is the same that is used with touchscreen devices. This allows the Smart Board to be able to process the movement of a finger or pen tool when it touches the surface. The technology is basically a sheet of thin resistive film over a strong backboard. When the finger or the pen tool slides over the resistive film, it causes the reflective film to touch the backboard. This is then sent as an analog signal to the computer. In some models, **Digital Vision Touch** is used for this function instead of the resistive film, which is a much better solution because it doesn't have the same limitations as the resistive technology (lower image clarity or vulnerability to damage from scratching, poking and sharp objects).

The Smart Board is a tool that is being implemented more and more all over the world. Built to last, designed for any learning environment and easy to use, a Smart Board is a solid investment in the classroom of the future.

**Adapted from https://www.techwalla.com/articles/how-do-smart-boards-work*

Glossary:

- **Digital Vision Touch**: DViT uses invisible, infrared (IR) light and special cameras to detect touch on interactive displays and whiteboards.

Answer the following questions:

1. Where is the Smart Board mainly used?

2. How do you use a Smart Board?

3. How can you connect the Smart Board to the Computer?

4. Why is a Smart Board compared to a TV set?

5. Why does it seem that the digital vision touch technology is better than the resistive technology?

What do you think?

Should all education institutions implement Smart Boards in their classrooms?