Video Game Consoles

"Aaron, what do you want for your birthday this year?"

"Can I get a **video game console**?"

"What is that?" asked his mom.

"It's a machine that is used to play digital and electronic video games."

"What kind of games?"

"It can play any kind of game, mom. But I will only play the ones you allow me. The games have to be bought separately for the game console, and they have to be specific for the type of console you have?"

"Well, what kind of console do you want?"

"My top choices are an Xbox and a Playstation. They are both great systems and have a wide availability of video games."

"So, you just need the console or are there other items that you must have to be able to play the games?"

"Well," explained Aaron, "I will need the console, a video game, and a controller."

"How much is something like this going to cost me?" his mom asked, trying to determine if this was going to be a financially feasible gift.

"It depends on what kind of game system and how new it is. The newer versions will cost more than the older ones. I would say both an Xbox and a Playstation will cost between 200 and 300 dollars. But the good news is they usually come with a controller. Separately, controllers are typically around 50 dollars."

"What about the video games?"

"Those also depend. New games run around 50 to 60 dollars, whereas you can find old games around 20 to 30 dollars."

Aaron's mom thought for a moment before responding. "Okay, I will think about it." Then, she went to the computer to do some research on them. She found that the concept of video game consoles was first introduced in the 1960s. She read that consoles could be arcade consoles, home consoles, like the ones Aaron wants, and **handheld consoles**, which are mobile game devices that can be played on the go.

Further, she found that she could buy video game discs or go to a online game store where she could buy the games **digitally**. For example, Xbox Live Marketplace and Playstation Network are two

places you can go to buy digital games. However, she likely needed to invest in an **external storage device** if she was going to download games directly to the console. These devices attach to the console and allow for additional storage space that the internal storage is not sufficient enough for.

Useful Vocabulary

separately = on its own
financially = has to do with money
feasible = be able to make it about sth (eg. buy)
respond = answer
sufficient = be enough

Questions

1. What is a **video game console**?

2. List two video game consoles.

3. What is the difference between a home console and a **handheld console**?

4. Where can you buy a video game digitally?

5. What is an **external storage device**?

6. Name the store you would go to in order to buy a digital game for an Xbox console.

7. When video game consoles were first introduced?

8. What word or phrase best helps describe the word **digital**?

   a) Electronic b) online c) downloadable d) all of the above