

A - Clever Boots

Clever Boots is an educational and entertaining website that aims to tell people how things work. From how your body works to how the earth formed, you'll find it here. There are helpful videos, diagrams and photos which help you understand, and there are links to other websites, such as industries and environmental agencies, so you can study a topic in as much detail as you like.

B - Reviewer

Kids aged between the ages of ten and fifteen choose and review their favourite works of fiction. There are reviews of over 5000 books, from teen horror to romance. The 'Like this?... Then try this...' button makes it easy for kids to find more books they would enjoy. Kids can post their own opinions about the books they have read and compare their thoughts to others.

C - Babble

Babble is a social site where teens can catch up with friends and meet new people online. When you enter the site you arrive at the Babble School. You can then click on different classrooms in the hotel and select your age group. Join discussions on a range of hot topics, from business, industry, biological research or your opinions of classic literature. You can also create private 'classrooms' where only your classmates are allowed. You can even change furniture and colours in your classroom!

D - Know it All

All the available official past papers from different examination boards are here on one site, allowing you to get really prepared. There are papers on all subjects and at a wide range of levels. Answers are provided although, for essay questions, they can be difficult to follow. There is advice about how to read questions correctly and suggestions about different ways to study.

E - Master It

Whatever your dream in life, Master It can help you achieve it. Master It tells you the qualifications you need and the exams you have to pass in order to get different jobs. It tells you whether you need to a university degree or technical college qualification, or whether you can walk into the job after leaving school. Read about people who did the course and find out how challenging it is. The site can even tell you the closest locations of schools offering courses.

F - Teen Teach

If you want to know whether you've got your homework right before handing it in, Teen Teach can help. Other teenagers will look at your work, point out mistakes and give you suggestions on how you can improve it. Be careful, though. Anybody can give their opinion on your homework. It doesn't mean that their ideas are good ones!

G - Book Fair

Book Fair is a great way for school and college students to find the best books for their courses at the best price. Read about which books students found most helpful, and which ones weren't. Write your own opinions too. There are links to online bookshops where you can buy books at the cheapest prices, and you can also buy second hand from other site users. If you've finished with a book, sell it on here.

H - Wilson

Wilson is a cartoon dog who is interested in a lot of things. Follow Wilson as he explores his cartoon world and finds out about the things in it. There is information about wildlife, health, history, religion and countries of the world. Although the site is fun and entertaining, the information is rather simple and lacks detail. The more intelligent users may even find a few errors in the contents!

Question 1



Jamie is interested in becoming a mechanic, and wants to know whether he'll need to take any exams to get a job, or whether he can simply find work at a garage after leaving school.

Question 2



Paul is tired of doing his homework and wants to read for fun. However, he doesn't know what books to read as there seem to be so many to choose from!

Question 3



Annie is seventeen years old and has to write a geography report for school on where our power comes from. She wants real life examples to make her report really good.

Question 4



Cathy's brother always used to check her homework before he gave it to his teacher, but now he has gone to university, so she has nobody to help her.

Question 5



Miriam has enjoyed finding out about different religions at school and would like to discuss the topic with people from other schools, or even other countries.

Fourteen-year-old Neil Atkins talks about working on a house-building project in the United States.

I got involved in the house-building project through my Uncle Brian. We went to stay with him in the United States for six weeks during the summer holiday. He was helping out on the project and asked me to come along. At first I wasn't interested. I was enjoying watching lots of new channels on TV! But after a while I got bored and went along to see what he was doing. I realised that what he was doing was really great!

He was helping out for an organisation that builds houses for people who can't usually afford them. Instead, the organisation buys all the wood and bricks and things you need to build a house. It lends the family the tools and hires some guys who know what they're doing. They also get people like my uncle, who aren't builders but who just want to help out in the community, to do the more simple building jobs. The family eventually pay all the money back to the organisation, but they can do this over many years, and it's much cheaper than buying a new house.

I helped out with moving dirt and preparing tea. It was a bit disappointing that I wasn't allowed to use the tools and do jobs like cutting wood and nailing things together. I understand why they do it, but do design and technology at school so I know I could do it right. Some people had no idea how to use a hammer correctly! But if I go back next year, I'll be able to do it, because I'll be fifteen then.

1 Why was Neil's uncle involved in the building project?

- He lent the family his tools.
- He is a qualified builder.
- He enjoys helping out other people.
- He wants to build his own house.

2 Which of the following is true about the building project?

- The organisation provides free homes for poor people.
- The project was filmed and shown on television.
- No experienced builders were needed to build the house.
- The future owners helped to build the house.

3 Neil was surprised that...

- his uncle had such good building skills.
- some adults didn't know how to use tools.
- he wasn't allowed to cut wood.
- houses are so expensive in the USA.

4 Neil will be able to use the tools next year because...

- he is planning to study design and technology.
- he will be old enough.
- his uncle is going to teach him how to use them.
- there will be fewer people on the project.

5 What might Neil write in his diary about his experience?

Building the house was okay, but it wasn't as fun as watching American TV!

I learnt a lot of useful things for my design and technology course from working on the building project.

I really enjoyed building the house. It gave me the chance to use my design and technology skills.

Building the house was better than watching TV, but I wanted to do more building work.