

Teacher: Now children, welcome to the session on the digital divide. Let's listen to a song to inspire you!

Video plays. All puppets sing/dance along to the song.

Teacher: So, what do you know about the digital divide?

Student 1: Erm, well, I think, The digital divide refers to, erm, the gap between people that have and, erm, haven't got access to technology and the internet?

Teacher: Yes BillyBob, that's right. After listening to the song, let's test your knowledge even further! What percentages of UK households do not have access to the internet?

All Students: Hmm

Teacher: Correct! 23 percent of UK households do not have access to the internet (Office for National Statistics, 2011). Digitally excluded households lose on average £560 a year from not shopping online and paying bills (21st Century Challenges, 2009).

Now for the next question, how many times has the cause behind the digital divide been classified?

All Students: Hmm

Teacher: Well done, that's correct. Originally the digital divide was based upon having no access to a personal computer or Internet. Now there is a secondary divide with people who don't have access to high speed broadband (Wattel, S et al, 2011).

or

Teacher: Sorry, that's incorrect. Originally the digital divide was based upon having no access to a personal computer or Internet. Now there is a secondary divide with people who don't have access to high speed broadband (Wattel, S et al, 2011).

You're all doing so well.

Finally class, what are the factors that influence the digital divide?

All Students: Hmm

Teacher: Well done, that's correct. Age, wealth, education, topography, language and political and ethical issues all have a major impact of preventing the gap from closing.

In the UK, 39% of those over the age of 65 do not have access to the Internet, 49% are from low socio-economic groups and 38% are unemployed (21st Century Challenges, 2009).

A study has shown that even with these factors eliminated, racial minority groups are still disadvantaged when it comes to access to high speed broadband (Wattel, S et al, 2011).

Or

Teacher: Sorry, that's incorrect. Age, wealth, education, topography, language and political and ethical issues all have a major impact of preventing the gap from closing.

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Class Dismissed

All Students: Ohhhh.

References:

21st Century Challenges, 2009. *Facts and figures of the digital divide in UK - 21st Century Challenges - Royal Geographical Society with IBG*. [online] Available at: <<http://www.21stcenturychallenges.org/60-seconds/what-is-the-digital-divide/>> [Accessed 3/12/11]

Office for National Statistics, 2011. *Internet Access - Households and Individuals, 2011*. [online] Available at: <<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/rdit2/internet-access---households-and-individuals/2011/stb-internet-access-2011.html>> [Accessed 3/12/11]

Wattel, S., Hong, Y., Mandviwalla, M. and Jain, A. (2011) 'Technology Diffusion in the Society: Analyzing Digital Divide in the Context of Social Class', *System Sciences (HICSS), 2011 44th Hawaii International Conference on*, pp. 1-10.

