

4565: Computing Foundations for a Digital Age

Unit 1

Day 1 Lesson Plan: Welcome & Word Bytes Introduction

Objective

Students will get to know the class structure, expectations, and one another. Students will also create their personal Word Bytes digital dictionary to use throughout the course.

Word Bytes

- **Algorithm** – A step-by-step set of instructions a computer follows to solve a problem or complete a task.

Materials

- First Day Poster template (print optional)
- Word Bytes digital dictionary template (Google Docs/Slides)

Activities

Teacher Introduction & Course Overview

- Introduce yourself to the students. Share your background, what excites you about computer science, and what you hope students will gain from the course.
- Provide a high-level overview of the course and how students will engage with computing topics throughout the semester.
- Introduce your classroom norms and expectations. Be sure to explain how digital tools (like the Word Bytes dictionary) will be used.

Student Icebreaker Activity – "First Day Poster"

- Students will complete a short digital or paper-based poster to introduce themselves. Prompts include:
 - ☐ Name / Preferred Name
 - ☐ Favorite app or game
 - ☐ What they like to do outside of school
 - ☐ One thing they hope to learn this year

- This can be adapted to any format that fits your classroom: Google Slides, paper templates, Canva, etc.
- Encourage students to decorate creatively or add photos if time allows
 - Sample editable Google Slides template: [Make a Copy of the Poster Template](#)

Word Bytes Introduction

- Explain that students will build a personal "Word Bytes" digital dictionary throughout the course.
- Introduce the first term: **Algorithm**. Discuss its definition and give a few quick examples (e.g., a recipe, morning routine, steps to open an app).
- Students make their own copy of the Word Bytes digital dictionary (Google Slides or Docs depending on your preferred format).
 - Example template: [Make a Copy of the Word Bytes Dictionary](#)
 - Let students add their first entry with the definition for "Algorithm," plus an example of one in real life.

Class Discussion

- Prompt: "What's one thing you do every day that follows a step-by-step process?"
- Optional extension: Let students guess what would happen if steps in their daily routine were out of order (e.g., brushing teeth before putting toothpaste on the brush).