

4565: Computing Foundations for a Digital Age

Unit 5

Day 5 Lesson Plan: The Internet's Impact on Society

Objective:

Students will analyze how the internet has shaped society both positively and negatively, considering issues of equity, access, and information reliability.

Warm-Up: Agree/Disagree Line

- Pose a provocative statement and have students physically (or digitally) place themselves along a line to represent how much they agree or disagree:
 - “The internet has done more good than harm.”
- Allow a few students from different points on the line to explain their reasoning. Encourage respectful disagreement and layered thinking.

Mini-Lesson: Key Issues of Internet Impact

Introduce (briefly) three major themes:

- **Access & Equity:**
Not everyone has equal access to high-speed internet or devices (the *digital divide*).
- **Information & Misinformation:**
The internet is a tool for learning and spreading false information. Discuss *misinformation* and *disinformation*.
- **Regulation & Neutrality:**
Introduce *net neutrality* in simple terms—should all data on the internet be treated equally?

Use short video clips or headlines to illustrate these ideas (optional).

WebQuest: Internet Impacts in Real Life

Students work in pairs or groups to explore different ways the internet has shaped society.

Suggested Topics:

- How has the internet changed education?
- What role has it played in activism and social movements?
- How do algorithms and personalization affect what people see online?
- What happens when internet access is restricted in a region?

Directions:

Assign or let students choose a topic, then research using teacher-provided sources or curated links. Each group will:

- Summarize what they learned (bullet notes are fine)
- Identify one positive and one negative consequence of that change
- Share one interesting fact or surprise
- You may close this with a brief share-out or a gallery walk format where groups post findings and students rotate to read.

Project Connection:

Ask students to reflect on how the internet influences their selected technology for the case study.

Prompt:

- “How does the internet enable, enhance, or complicate the use of your chosen technology?”

Students jot this response in their journal or project notebook.

Exit Ticket:

- “What’s one way the internet has changed your life personally?”

Encourage personal but thoughtful responses. If time allows, invite a few to share aloud.

Word Bytes of the Day:

- **Digital Divide** – Not everyone has equal access to the internet or digital tools.
Example: Some rural communities may not have high-speed Wi-Fi.
- **Net Neutrality** – The idea that all internet traffic should be treated equally.
Example: Your school's internet shouldn't load one news site faster than another.
- **Misinformation** – Incorrect or misleading info spread online (often accidentally).
Example: A viral post that falsely claims a celebrity died.
- **Access** – The ability to connect to and use the internet or digital resources.
Example: Students with school-issued laptops have better access to learning tools.