

MINECRAFT EDUCATION



MINECRAFT EDUCATION BUILD CHALLENGE TOOLKIT

This toolkit provides a step-by-step guide for how to organize your own Minecraft Education Build Challenge for students in your classroom, school, district or region. In the upcoming sections you will learn why a Build Challenge is a powerful tool for fostering creative and collaborative problem-solving skills among students. Additionally, you will learn how to execute your own build challenge, add an element of healthy competition and learn how to assess student learning outcomes.

MINECRAFT CHALLENGES INSPIRE LEARNING

Minecraft Build Challenges offer a great way to engage students and educators in creative projects, problem solving and celebrating the community. Challenges present an opportunity for educators to use Minecraft to inspire students in core school subjects, local issues, real-world problems, or history.

Minecraft Education build challenges start by posing a challenge prompt to students and inviting them to design solutions: For example, build a futuristic car, design a sustainable version of your school or new park for your town, architect an energy-efficient home, or recreate a scene from history or local landmark.

Challenges don't have to be competitive; they can be an exciting way to bring the community together to solve a problem and celebrate the ideas and creativity of the students. Adding a layer of competition can be motivating, so this is an option if schools want to conduct a judging process to evaluate submissions and select winners.



HOW TO ASSESS STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students can display their creations and show their understanding and knowledge about the topic. After completing their builds, they can leverage in game tools such as the camera, book and quill, or leverage a screen-recording tool to showcase their work and reflect on what they learned. You will be able to see if they improved their problem solving skills or if they learned more about the challenge's theme. Having students reflect on their work can help you identify their learning outcomes.

DIVE DEEPER INTO BUILD CHALLENGE TEMPLATES:

For an understanding of what build challenges are, and to explore the available build challenge templates and learn how to use them, check out our comprehensive [Minecraft Education Jumpstart Guide](#).

MAKING YOUR MINECRAFT BUILD CHALLENGES COMPETITIVE

Making your Minecraft Education Build Challenge competitive can be a great way to engage students and encourage healthy competition. To do this you'll first need to set a challenge and communicate it to your students. Next, you'll need to lay down clear rules and guidelines for the challenge, including the objective, the resources that can be used, and the time limits. Following this, you'll need to create a rubric to evaluate the students' creations. After the challenge, you can organize a judging event where teams can showcase their Builds. This could be conducted in the classroom or as a school-wide event. Finally, once a winner is determined, you can celebrate and acknowledge the winners. For more information on how to create a build challenge and add a competitive element to your build challenge we provided a step-by-step guide below.

STEPS TO RUN A BUILD CHALLENGE WITH YOUR STUDENTS:

1

Step 1: Get Setup with Minecraft Education

If you already have Minecraft Education enabled on your students' devices, skip this section!

If not, please check out our Licensing and Development Guide for steps on how to download and sign into Minecraft Education: aka.ms/mcedulicensingguide

2

Step 2: Choose A Challenge Prompt

Choose a topic of sustainability or equity for your school to encourage students to build a better world with Minecraft Education. Here are six sample prompts. You can also create your own prompt that invites students to address a local issue impacting your school, community, or country.

1. **Public Space Challenge:** Design a public space for your community in Minecraft, keeping in mind the local culture and ecosystem as well as the needs of the different types of people that will use the space.
2. **Sustainable School Challenge:** Build a more sustainable version of your school in Minecraft. Consider a holistic definition of sustainability, which may involve rethinking energy systems, recycling, transportation, and how nature plays a role.
3. **Accessible Vehicle Challenge:** Create a model of an accessible vehicle with Minecraft. Think about what assistive technologies can be incorporated and the needs of people with various disabilities.
4. **Carbon Neutral Challenge:** Model a real-world carbon neutral system in Minecraft, demonstrating resource flows and documenting carbon removal. This subject is more suitable for older students.
5. **Accessible Classroom Challenge:** Design a more accessible version of your classroom in Minecraft. Think about people with different learning styles and disabilities so the space is a safe and inspiring environment for everyone to be healthy.
6. **Healthcare Challenge:** Build a new way to provide healthcare in Minecraft to help people of different ages and abilities access the care they need. This might be an at-home solution, new device or technology or a creative design for a community clinic.

3

Step 3: Choose a build template for your Minecraft Education Build Challenge

After choosing a prompt you will want to choose a relevant world. The world will serve as a canvas for your students' creativity. You will want to ensure the world fits the theme of your Build Challenge. For example, if your build challenge is "Build a Sustainable City" you might want to use a city template.

4

Step 4: Decide who Participates from your School Community

Decide whether students work individually or collaboratively in teams (we recommend groups of three to five students). Minecraft Education Challenges are appropriate for all ages and grades. Consider inviting teachers to run the Challenge in their classrooms, or as part of afterschool programs or computer clubs.

We suggest appointing a few people to help facilitate the Challenge and answer questions (i.e. tech administrators, assistant principals). Determine a point person or team from your district to manage the Challenge and be the point of contact for teachers

5

Step 5: Announce Your Build Challenge to your School Community

Send an email to teachers in your district to encourage them to invite their students to participate in the Minecraft Education Challenge. You can use the email template provided, which includes details on how to participate. We also suggest posting on your school's website, social media channels, newsletters, and any parent information pages. If your school is open, you could even host a launch event to energize the community to get involved!

6

Step 6: Submission deadline for student work

Determine what format you will use for student project submissions and how you will collect submissions (for example, you might ask students to send them via email or upload them to a folder in your learning management system). See the appendix for sample submission formats, which include short videos, exported portfolios and in-game screenshots with short essays.

Requirements include:

- Submissions must be created using Minecraft Education and must be original and unique. Remember to follow your school's privacy terms before posting any student work online.
- Decide if you want to limit the number of students on each team or allow students to work individually. We recommend that if students work in teams, they plan the project together and split up responsibilities.

7

Step 7: Evaluate Submissions and Select Finalists

Evaluation of projects can be done in classrooms, by a panel of judges or by 'crowdsourcing' and having students vote on one another's projects. This is up to you! See the appendix for a sample rubric.

8

Step 8: Award Prizes and Share the Results with your School and Minecraft!

We have provided a list of suggested prizes in the appendix. These experiences and events relate to sustainability and inclusion themes and are excellent ways to reinforce learning, celebrate creative projects and provide awards for exemplary student work

Examples of Minecraft Challenges

School communities have run Minecraft challenges all over the world, with themes ranging from sustainability and urban planning to history and post disaster reconstruction. Here are some examples for inspiration:

Singapore Energy Challenge:

Singapore's Energy Market Authority (EMA) wanted to give secondary school students the chance to engage with this critical issue. In March 2020, EMA launched the inaugural Singapore Energy Grand Challenge. This challenge theme sparked learners' imaginations with a creative prompt: "How would your energy-efficient school or neighborhood in Singapore look in 2050?"

Using Minecraft Education's immersive environment, students collaborated in teams of two to four to build the energy system they envisioned for Singapore in 2050. Read more about: [THE SINGAPORE ENERGY GRAND CHALLENGE FOR YOUTH](#)

Japan Cup:

With the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics planned for Japan in 2020, the theme of the Minecraft Cup was to design new sports facilities for the city that would bring the community together.

A total of 2,800 students participated in the competition; there were 113 submissions. A

panel of Judges from across Japan evaluated the 113 submissions. It was a fantastic showcase of what student creativity can do when it's applied to a social challenge! You can read more about the challenge and the winning projects here: [Japan Cup](#)

Wales Designing Inclusive Rugby Clubs:

In January 2020, Prodigy Learning joined forces with the team from Minecraft: Education Edition, the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) and Hwb, the Welsh Government's digital platform for learning and teaching, to create a unique competition for schools across Wales. Learn more about the Build Challenge Here: [Wales: Designing Inclusive Rugby Clubs](#)





We can't wait to see the creative and impactful work students build in Minecraft Education! Please share your students' build on X (Twitter) @PlayCraftLearn.

APPENDIX AND RESOURCES

ARTWORK & LOGOS

[Challenge trophy artwork](#)

[Challenge banner artwork](#)

[Challenge trophy artwork \(no banner\)](#)

[Minecraft Education Logo](#)

TEMPLATE INVITATION EMAIL

[Email](#)

SAMPLE RUBRIC

[PDF](#)

[Word](#)

ONE-PAGER FLYER

[Flyer](#)

CERTIFICATE

[PowerPoint](#)

GUIDE TO MULTIPLAYER:

Multiplayer is one of the most popular and effective ways to leverage Minecraft and is a great way to keep students connected with classmates, even when collaborating

remotely. Working together encourages collaboration, communication and problem solving as students work together on projects in a shared Minecraft world. 10 Multiplayer across different internet connections is possible as long as the criteria in the [Multiplayer Guide](#) is met, every home network is different, so it's possible that some players may not be able to join a multiplayer session from their respective networks due to distinct configuration settings. Anti-virus and firewall applications may block access to multiplayer, so ensure you configure these programs to allow access to Minecraft Education. Our support team is limited in our ability to troubleshoot these unique network issues, but we are always happy to try to help.

SAMPLE SUBMISSION FORMATS:

There are multiple ways students can document their work in Minecraft Education. Depending on the curriculum requirements or teachers' comfort level with the platform, challenge submissions can be gathered digitally with in-game screenshots and the Book & Quill tool, through student presentations or writing projects, or through online forms. Here is what we recommend:

- Short photo-essays: 500-word writeup with screenshots from Minecraft Education.
- Class presentations: Take the class on a tour of your Minecraft build in a short in person presentation either in multiplayer or by projecting on a screen.
- Web form: Create a web form and have students upload either screenshots or mcworld files, ideally along with a short description of how they addressed the theme.

PRIZE IDEAS:

Here are several ideas for awarding student achievement or showcasing student work in the Minecraft Challenge:

- Host an event in your school or district where the winners are presented at an assembly, art show or project showcase. Invite local government, planners, families, and community members.

MINECRAFT EDUCATION

- Winning students (or classroom) gets to meet a local professional urban planner, architect or scientist who visits the school.
- Field trip to a place where sustainability plays a major role such as a recycling plant, architecture firm or public