

Copyright and Public Domain

Textbook

Copyright and Public Domain



You've never cheat on a test, of course. That work is all yours. but those who do, that's not ok! Now think about someone copying your work and saying it was theirs—even making money from it—without saying you made it first. That wouldn't be the right thing to do.

This is why copyright exists. [Copyright](#) protects creators by making sure only they can decide who uses their work and how it's shared. But what happens when a work is old enough for everyone to use? That's where the public domain comes in! In this lesson, you'll learn how copyright works, how to legally use creative content, and why giving credit is so important.

Copyright

[Copyright](#) is when material created on a computer is owned by the person who created it. People who own the copyright of something are the only ones who can:

- Show or use that copyrighted work,
- Use the ideas of their copyrighted work in something else,
- Sell or rent copies of their work.

Consequences for Improper Use

What happens if you use someone else's copyrighted work without their permission? It's like taking something that belongs to them without asking.

- **Legal Trouble:** Sometimes, the creator can ask a judge to make you stop using their work.
- **Paying Money:** You might even have to pay money to the person whose work you used.
- **Bad Consequences:** If you use someone else's work without permission, you might not be allowed to share your project. It can also lead to serious problems at school or online.

The Public Domain

The [public domain](#) is where copyrighted works go after 50–70 years. These are all free to use!

It is safest to only use images, videos, etc. in the public domain to avoid illegally using someone's copyrighted works.

If a copyrighted material has a [Creative Commons](#) license, it means you can still use that material. This license is used when the content creator wants to give others the right to share, use, and build upon the work they have created.



If you don't, this is called plagiarism. [Plagiarism](#) is when you use someone else's words or ideas and pass them off as your own.

To give credit to others, write at the bottom of the page where you got the information for your project or show your sources at the end of your work in a resource list.

Verifying Information from Digital Resources

Before you use any digital material (like a picture, song, or video) you find online, it's always a good idea to **verify the information**. This means checking to make sure you truly have permission to use it. Look for clear signs that it's okay, like a Creative Commons license, or if it says it's in the public domain. If you're not sure, it's best *not* to use it or to ask an adult for help.

If you use someone else's words or ideas and pass them off as your own without giving credit, this is called **plagiarism**. Plagiarism is never okay.

To give credit to others, write at the bottom of the page where you got the information for your project or show your sources at the end of your work in a resource list.

The micro:bit and Copyright

The programs you create on the micro:bit are your creations, the same way a story is an author's creation. You could apply a copyright license to your creation if you wanted to be sure no one else used your idea.

It is important to always give credit to the ideas of others as you see their programs.

Critical Thinking Questions

1. Why do you think rules about copying work are important? How do they help people keep their ideas safe?
2. What are some ways you can legally use someone else's work in your own projects?

3. If you created a piece of music, art, or code, would you want to copyright it? Why or why not?
4. You find a really cool picture online that you want to use in your presentation. How would you **cite** (give credit to) the source to make sure you are using it legally and fairly? Write out the citation.

Questions (5)

1. What does copyright protect?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Choose the correct answer:

- A. How many people view a website
- B. The person who buys a book
- C. The creator's right to control their work
- D. The ability to change history

2. What is it called when you use someone else's work and say it's your own?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Choose the correct answer:

- A. Citation
- B. Plagiarism
- C. Copywriting
- D. Fair use

3. What is the public domain?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Choose the correct answer:

- A. A private place where only some people can get information
- B. A list of websites approved by teachers
- C. Creative work that is free for anyone to use
- D. A special password-protected folder

4. How long does it usually take for work to enter the public domain?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Choose the correct answer:

- A. 1–2 years
- B. 10 years
- C. 50–70 years
- D. Never

5. What is a Creative Commons license?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

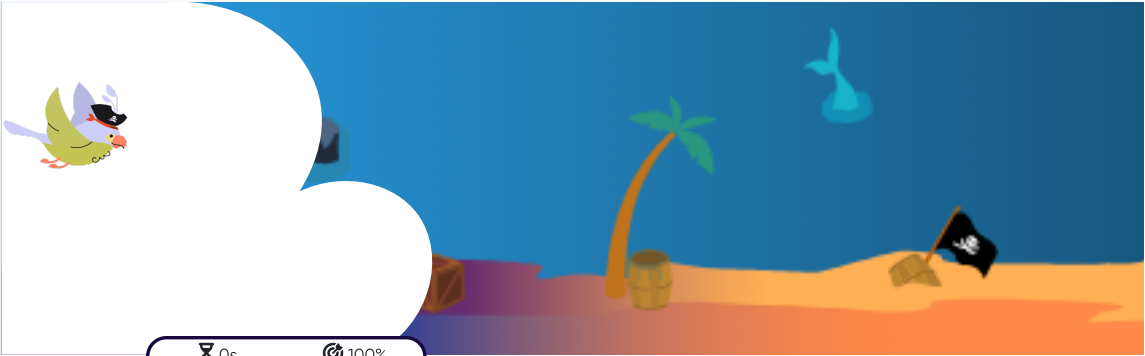
Choose the correct answer:

- A. A way to lock your work so no one can ever use it
- B. A tool that lets creators give permission to use their work
- C. A law about selling music
- D. A website for free games

Games (2)

1. Copyright and the Public Domain Typing

Full Screen Audio Instructions Restart Pause



0s 100%

Copyright protects creat

2. Copyright and Public Domain Matching

Full Screen

Audio

Instructions

Answer Key

Pause

Clear All

Check Matches

Attempts: 0

Copyright

Public Domain

Creative Commons

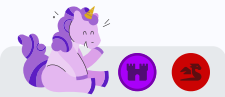
Plagiarism

Where copyrighted works go after 50-70 years

When material is owned by the person who created it

This license is used when the content creator wants to give others the right to share, use, and build upon the work they have created.

When you use someone else's words or ideas and pass them off as your own.



Robotics Challenges (3)

1. Create Your Own Shape

Challenge

Textbook

Create Your Own Shape

Create your own shape using the **show LEDs** block and program the micro:bit to show it when you press play.

Requirements

Create your own shape on the **show LEDs** block.

Answer Key

Submit

Step 1

Begin with the **on start** block. Create your own shape that will show when you press play.

Create Your Own Shape Step 1 of 1

1 Done

Toolbox

Search...

Basic

Input

Music

Led

Radio

Loops

Logic

Variables

Math

Extensions

Advanced

forever

on start

show LEDs

Download

...

2. Write Your Name

Challenge

Textbook

Write Your Name

Code the micro:bit to show your name using the **show LEDs** block when you press play.

You will need a separate block for each letter of your name.

Requirements

Spell out your name using **show LEDs** blocks

Answer Key

Submit

Step 1

Begin with the **on start** block.

Write Your Name Step 1 of 2

1 Next

Toolbox

Search...

Basic

Input

Music

Led

Radio

Loops

Logic

Variables

Math

Extensions

Advanced

forever

on start

show LEDs

Download

...

3. Loud North

Challenge

Textbook

Loud North

Program the micro:bit to show a North-pointing arrow if a loud sound is played, or else it should show a South-pointing arrow.

Requirements

- Code a forever loop
- Show an arrow pointing North IF a loud sound is played
- Otherwise, show an arrow pointing South.

Answer Key

Submit

The code editor shows a 'forever' loop containing an 'if' block. The 'if' block checks 'Sound level' (greater than 100). If true, it sets 'Arrow' to 'North'. If false, it sets 'Arrow' to 'South'.

Download

...

Answer Keys & Solutions

Questions

1. What does copyright protect?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Correct Answer:

- A. How many people view a website ✗ Incorrect
- B. The person who buys a book ✗ Incorrect
- C. The creator's right to control their work ✓ Correct
- D. The ability to change history ✗ Incorrect

Explanation:

Copyright gives creators a say in how their work is used.

2. What is it called when you use someone else's work and say it's your own?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Correct Answer:

- A. Citation ✗ Incorrect
- B. Plagiarism ✓ Correct
- C. Copywriting ✗ Incorrect
- D. Fair use ✗ Incorrect

3. What is the public domain?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Correct Answer:

- A. A private place where only some people can get information ✗ Incorrect
- B. A list of websites approved by teachers ✗ Incorrect
- C. Creative work that is free for anyone to use ✓ Correct

D. A special password-protected folder

✗ Incorrect

Explanation:

This is where older creative works go so anyone can use them freely.

4. How long does it usually take for work to enter the public domain?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Correct Answer:

A. 1–2 years

✗ Incorrect

B. 10 years

✗ Incorrect

C. 50–70 years

✓ Correct

D. Never

✗ Incorrect

Explanation:

It's usually about a lifetime or more before a copyrighted work becomes free to use.

5. What is a Creative Commons license?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Correct Answer:

A. A way to lock your work so no one can ever use it

✗ Incorrect

B. A tool that lets creators give permission to use their work

✓ Correct

C. A law about selling music

✗ Incorrect

D. A website for free games

✗ Incorrect

Explanation:

This type of license lets a creator give permission to share or use their work.

Games

1. Copyright and the Public Domain Typing

Typing game - no answer key needed. Students practice typing the provided content.

2. Copyright and Public Domain Matching

Matching Game Solutions:

1. →
2. →
3. →
4. →

Students must drag items from the left to match with corresponding items on the right.