

Environmental Sustainability | RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

MINECRAFT: PARENT IMPACT GUIDE

Age 8+ | 1-2 Hours

"I've always been interested in making games where the player can affect the game world in big ways. I guess in a sense it feels like you're playing with the world instead of the world."

-- Markus 'Notch' Persson, Minecraft Creator, Mojang



ABOUT MINECRAFT

Minecraft is a sandbox game for players of all ages. In this game the player is a man who is spawned in the middle of a world. In survival mode, the player must quickly gather resources and build a shelter in order to be safe from the enemies at night. Blocks must be gathered from the surroundings with various tools, such as axes and pickaxes, and then the blocks are ready to be used. In creative mode, the player is given unlimited blocks of every type and no enemies, allowing for creativity to shine above all else. For more information, visit: <http://bit.ly/1pEX5bW>

THEME FOR THIS GUIDE: Resource Management

One of *Minecraft's* most awe-inspiring features is the extensive and near infinite land maps made up of dense forests, swampy jungles, snowy mountains, and vast oceans. Each of these biomes contains unique flora and fauna that creates a wide range of available organic life in the game. In turn, the flora drop plantable seeds and saplings allowing for the farming and re-planting of virtually every plant the player encounters. Many of these are only available through farming. For example trees, although abundant, do not grow back unless replanted. This game focuses on the idea of resource management, which is the ability to control supplies in a way that is helpful to the player and the environment.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Challenge your child to play *Minecraft* and manage environmental resources wisely. Ask your child how resource management relates to his or her life. Why is resource management important and how is it carried out? Use this guide and the Player Impact Guide to become familiar with *Minecraft*.

DISCUSS THE GAME

... *the gameplay*

- What kinds of resources did you have to manage in *Minecraft*? [+1]
- What types of items could you craft and how did they help you manage what you had? [+2]
- Was there any point where you had a lack of materials that you needed? How did you handle that situation? [+3]

... *the game's impact*

- What did you learn about managing resources in *Minecraft* that you can apply to our lives? [+2]
- How can good resource management positively affect the world? What are some ways to manage resources in a way that benefits others? [+3]

INTERACT WITH THE GAME

- Have your child pick two game achievements and describe how they were earned and what they mean. [+1]
- Have your child setup two challenges, and watch as they complete them. [+2]
- Play the game yourself, and complete the "Game Basics" section of the player Impact Guide. [+2]
- Solve one challenge that your child sets up for you to complete with their help. [+2]

SHARE THE GAME

- Post a positive reflection on the CGI Facebook page: <http://facebook.com/gamesandimpact> [+2]
- Engage in conversations with other parents about your experience using the guide and playing the game. [+2]
- Host a "Game Slam" event, using these and other challenge questions you create. [+3]

Family Challenge: Create something together in your *Minecraft* environment that solves a resource management issue at home. Once you design your solution, make a screencast to show it off. Post it to YouTube, and share the link on the Center for Games & Impact Facebook page at <http://facebook.com/gamesandimpact>.