

Arduino

What is it?

Arduino is an open-source electronics platform enabling users to create interactive electronic objects. It couples programming in C with a vast array of attachable boards (known as 'shields') that allow enthusiasts to build almost anything they can imagine.

Arduino has been around for over a decade and prototyping boards (like the popular Arduino Uno R3) can be sourced very cheaply from eBay. Arduino is not the sort of platform that younger learners can simply be left with 'figure out' because the coding and electronics components are complex. A knowledgeable instructor can cater Arduino projects to students' competency levels to ensure it's engaging. Once people get started kids marvel at the possibilities of what they can create.

Resources & Requirements

Arduino requires a knowledgeable instructor, a computer and various hardware components. It also requires supervision because students are working with electricity.

The most popular prototyping board is the Arduino Uno R3 (it's cheap on eBay) and students will need one each, which is then connected to a computer. Once they build their skills they can then interface with thousands of buttons, switches and sensors to build unimaginably cool devices.

Visit arduino.cc to download the software and read tutorials. Students can search Google and browse the support forums for help. Demo code is included.



Arduino captivates coders aged 10 up. It has a steep learning curve but is very rewarding!

