



Did you ever wonder how computers know what to do? This module is designed to help you explore how people instruct computers and how they affect your everyday life.

2. Option B: Do all of the following. (a) Research what binary code is, and how computers use it to store information. Find out what an ASCII table is. (b) Write a message to another Scout, your parent, or your counselor in binary code. See if they can decode it. (c) Create a set of binary cards. Take 5 notecards and write a zero on one side of each. Then on the other side write one of the following numbers along with dots of that number: 1, 2, 4, 8, 16. (d) Line the cards up in number order with 16 on the far left and 1 on the far right. Turn them over so that zeros are facing up. So 0 = 00000 in 5-bit binary. (e) Now show how to represent the numbers 1-31 by flipping the correct combination of cards that produce the correct number of dots. Convert each number into a 5-bit binary code by using a zero for each 0 card and a 1 for each dotted card in order. HINT: 20 = 10100

3. Computer Science Unplugged! Choose A or B and complete ALL the requirements:

3A. Follow the Algorithm

3A-1. With grid paper or a checkerboard, select one square as the start space and another to be the finish space. Use a coin or other small object as the token to move between these spaces.

3A-2. Create flashcards with one direction on each card. For example: Move one space up, Move one space down, Move one space right, Move one space left, etc. You can use the cards multiple times or create copies of them/

3A-3. Produce the series of instructions that move your token from start to finish on the grid. Make sure that there are at least three steps involved. This is called an algorithm. Write the steps down. Test your algorithm and have another person try it as well. Can you find a different series of steps that move the token between start and finish?

3A-4. Move the start and finish spaces and create a new set of instructions for this path. Test your algorithm and fix any errors,

3A-5. Add a few "blackout" squares to the board, that cannot be used, then create a new series of instructions to move without crossing any of them.

3A-6. Research how computers use algorithms to work. Discuss what you learn with your counselor.

3B. Creative Conditionals

3B-1. Use a deck of playing cards to create a new game based on conditions, or create your own deck with paper and markers. Use four different colors and put the numbers 1-10 on separate cards in each color.

3B-2. Create and record actions for each number and suit/color. These are called conditions. For example: For a 5, clap your hands over your head. For a heart, hop on one foot, etc.

