

What makes Bitsbox different?



Typed JavaScript Programming



Elementary and Middle School



Beautiful Printed Materials



Kids make and share real apps



100s of open-ended projects



Apps work on real phones and tablets

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Coding Project Books Unit 2: Variables



Coding Project Books **Unit 3: Conditionals**

BROWSE ALL EDUCATION PRODUCTS

"My students are so engaged with Bitsbox. It is the perfect next step after 'blocky' style programming of Scratch and other similar apps. I appreciate how you made it so streamlined without any special downloads. I have one set of your books and will be ordering more."

Sharon Neff, South Carolina

Getting started

Hello, dear educator! Thanks so much for your interest in Bitsbox. Educators all around the world have been using Bitsbox in their classrooms, and we couldn't be more thrilled. Bitsbox has been used by hundreds of thousands of students in over 70 countries to build apps and learn about computer science.

What's Bitsbox?

With Bitsbox, students learn to program by creating fun apps that work on computers and gadgets like iPads and Android tablets. The Bitsbox website provides your students with a virtual tablet and a place to type their code. The experience starts with lots of guidance. It first shows learners exactly what to type, then quickly encourages them to modify and expand their apps by adding in new code.

What kinds of kids can use Bitsbox?

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Here's what you need to use Bitsbox in your classroom:

- One computer for every one or two students (Younger kids do very well in "pair programming" setups where they can help each other out, while older students should probably have a machine all to themselves.)
- A modern web browser. (Google Chrome is best, but Firefox, IE11+, Edge, and Safari work okay, too.)
- A reliable (though not necessarily lightning-fast) internet connection
- A physical keyboard and mouse for each computer

Make sure the Bitsbox website works on the computers your students will use.

Some school districts block unfamiliar websites for safety reasons. Go to bitsbox.com/code and click Build Apps Now. If you get an error message, ask your school's IT person to allow access to the following websites:

- *.bitsbox.com
- *.bitsbox.io
- *.firebase.com
- *.firebaseio.com
- *.googleapis.com
- *.gstatic.com
- *.codepops.com
- bitsbox.firebaseapp.com

How do I get my students started with Bitsbox?

Do our online sample apps! These are completely online and tailor-made for classrooms full of Bitsbox beginners. After that, you can order some Bitsbox printed materials to keep the party going. Have fun!

Can my students do Bitsbox entirely on their iPads or tablet?

Yes! As long as they have a keyboard!

How can my students run their apps on a tablet?

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Apple iOS: QR Code Reader and Barcode Scanner
Android: QR Code Reader

- 2. On a computer, open the student's app in Bitsbox. You'll see a small, gray "share" icon in the upper-right corner of the computer screen.
- 3. Click the share icon to show the QR code that's unique to their app.
- 4. Use the QR code scanner app on your tablet or phone to scan the QR code on the student's computer screen.
- 5. Open the web page that wants to open on your tablet or phone. It's the student's app!

What programming language are students learning with Bitsbox?

Bitsbox uses a modified version of JavaScript, one of the most popular programming languages in the world. Bitsbox commands are short, easy to type, and easy to understand for beginners. As students progress, they're introduced to more "vanilla" JavaScript syntax (vocabulary and grammar).

Can I get your printed materials for my classroom?

Yes! We now offer \$149.95 Coding Project Book sets. Each set includes 10 copies of the book and a helpful Educators Guide! We also offer Coding Workbooks that help your students plan their projects and reflect on what they've learned.

Is there a way to "bulk create" accounts for my students?

Yes there is. We have a bulk account creator just for you. All you need is a CSV file with the usernames and passwords you'd like to use.

Who created Bitsbox?

Bitsbox was invented in 2014 by a pair of Boulder, Colorado-based ex-Google employees named Scott Lininger and Aidan Chopra. They both have kids who are learning to code. The Bitsbox website is actually only half of the idea; the other half is the physical materials which you can find on our Education Store. Learning from print? What an outrageous idea!

As a teacher, how can I stay in the loop about Bitsbox and education?

Click here to sign up for our educator-specific mailing list. You can also join the Bitsbox Educators Group on Facebook.

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