

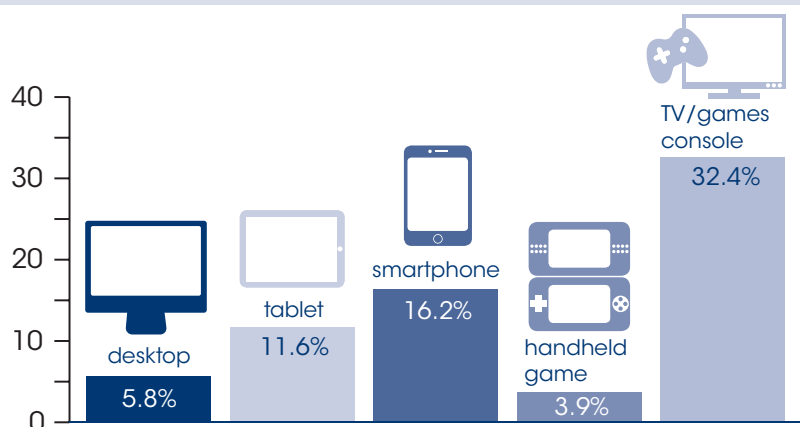
Gaming around the world

1 Talk about the infographic with your partner. Answer the questions.

- 1 What is currently the most popular device to play video games on worldwide?
- 2 Why do you think handheld game devices are no longer very popular?
- 3 If you play video games, which device do you usually use? Why?

2a Read the article. What kind of video games do each of the gamers enjoy playing?

Global video games market



VIDEO GAMES AROUND THE WORLD

In South Korea, lots of people love playing video games. And it's not always just for fun. Like many countries, we also have professional video game players who take part in big competitions that are shown on TV and who can make big money. What's more, we have gaming centres called *PC bangs* where people can pay to play video games together. This gives video gamers the opportunity to spend time doing what they enjoy, especially as Korean people love playing together. I could use my computer at home to play the action games I love, but I prefer being with my friends when I play. It's important not to get addicted to playing video games though. Like anything, it's good to do what you enjoy, but in moderation. My friends and I are quite sensible about how we play. I make sure it doesn't stop me doing my homework, doing sport or being with my friends.

Kim, student and video gamer, South Korea



Some teachers think that video games are going to change the way we teach and that one day we won't need teachers any more. I don't agree with that. I think we'll always need teachers in some way. I play adventure games on the computer with my children and it's a lot of fun. I sometimes use video games in class, too. Digital games help students learn to solve problems quickly and they keep them motivated and interested. I know most people think that playing computer games is a solitary and lonely hobby, but that just isn't true. Something like 72% of gamers in the UK play socially online with other people.

Laila, teacher and video gamer, UK

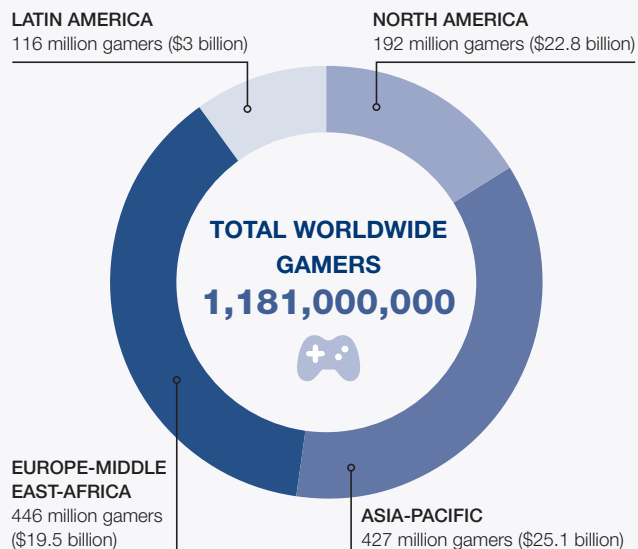
You wouldn't think of me as a typical video game player – I'm 75 years old! I read in the newspaper that 68% of Australians play video games, and a lot of them are older players. Most of the games I play are what are known as social games against other people. I play word games with my son who lives in Sydney, cards with my old work friends and I'll play chess with anyone. I think elderly gamers are a worldwide phenomenon and not something specific to Australia. The older people I play with are based in Canada, the UK, Zimbabwe, in fact all over the world. Playing these online games keeps my mind active and also keeps me connected to other people. I never thought I'd say it, but I love video games!

Max, video gamer, Australia



VIDEO GAMES IN NUMBERS

WHERE IN THE WORLD DO GAMERS LIVE?



2b Read the article and infographics on page 1 again. Work with a partner to match the numbers or statistics with the correct information.

- | | | |
|---|--------------------|-------|
| 1 | 3.9% | |
| 2 | 72% | |
| 3 | 22.8 billion | |
| 4 | 1,181,000,000 | |
| 5 | over two thirds | |
| 6 | 446 million gamers | |
- a the number of gamers in Europe, the Middle East and Africa combined
b the number of Australian people who play computer games
c the total estimated number of gamers worldwide
d the value of the North American gaming market
e the approximate percentage of British gamers that play socially on the Internet
f the percentage of people who enjoy gaming on a handheld device

2c Read the article again and decide if the sentences are True (T) or False (F).

- | | | |
|---|---|-----|
| 1 | A PC bang is a place where people can go and play video games in South Korea. | T/F |
| 2 | Kim prefers playing video games at home rather than at a gaming centre. | T/F |
| 3 | Laila thinks that teachers may one day be replaced by video games. | T/F |
| 4 | British people enjoy playing videos games together on the Internet. | T/F |
| 5 | More than half of the population of Australia like playing video games. | T/F |
| 6 | Max enjoys playing with gamers from lots of different countries. | T/F |
| 7 | According to the statistics, there are more than two billion gamers in the world. | T/F |
| 8 | There are more gamers in North America than in the Asia-Pacific region. | T/F |

2d Complete the sentences using no more than three words.

- 1 In South Korea, you can if you win a video game competition.
- 2 Kim loves playing video games, but he also makes sure he
- 3 Laila sometimes uses video games
- 4 One of the reasons Max plays online games is to keep him
- 5 Latin America is the region with the least amount in the world.
- 6 The Europe-Middle East-Africa region spends almost on gaming annually.

Gateway to culture

3a Work with a partner and answer the questions about gaming in your country.

- Is playing video games popular in your country? Why/Why not?
- Which age group do you think enjoys gaming the most?
- Are there gaming centres where people can go and play together?

PROJECT

3b You are going to work on a project about gaming trends in different parts of the world.

- In pairs, research a region of the world and find out the following information:
 - the number of gamers in the region
 - the average age of gamers
 - the top video game(s) played
 - where gamers prefer to play: at a gaming centre or at home
 - which digital device(s) gamers prefer to play on
 - any other interesting information
- As a class, create a survey to gather the information from different regions for a report. Decide together what questions to include using the points you researched above to help.
- Use your survey to interview another pair about their research findings.

3c As a class, use the information each pair found out to produce a report comparing gaming trends around the world.