

'Minecraft Education Edition' is Available On Chromebooks

In the midst of a new school year that could see students never stepping into a physical classroom, Microsoft is bringing Minecraft: Education Edition to Chromebooks.

The Chrome OS version of Minecraft: Education Edition will allow cross-platform play between Windows, iPad and Mac versions of the game, meaning students will have the chance to socialize and collaborate on projects no matter what device they're using. Microsoft is updating the software to include 11 new STEM lessons as well as an interactive Minecraft world that teaches students all about pollination and bees. The update also comes with an updated library of lesson plans and tagged abilities.

The company says Chrome OS, iPad and Windows devices will download the update automatically. However, Mac users will need to download it manually. Schools that are already using Minecraft: Education Edition in their classrooms don't need to change their subscription. The company will include the Chrome OS version to its Microsoft 365 for Education A3 and A5 licenses.

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Minecraft Education Edition has been available since the year 2016 It's a bit of a shock to learn that it's only being made available to Chromebooks this year. In the end, Google's computing platform dominates the education market. According to the company it was home to more than 30 million Chromebooks in use at schools across the globe in the year 2019. Chromebooks were responsible for 60 percent of all laptops and tablets purchased in the US for classrooms for K-12 students in 2018. What's interesting about this new release is that it offers Chrome OS users an official method of installing Minecraft without sideloading the game onto their device.

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