



Cool Coding: for Creative Thinking, Problem-Solving & Fun

Coding isn't just math and science. The logic, creativity and problem-solving it teaches can help students with all subjects. Computer Science Education Week is December 3-9. You can mark it by [joining the international Hour of Code project](#) at your school or by helping students learn to code through lessons or projects. These resources will get you started.



- [Code.org](#) is a nonprofit website offering free lessons in coding fundamentals for all grade levels. The site also has professional learning for teachers, App and Game Labs to teach students how to create apps, animations and games, as well as lessons and widgets to teach encryption, text compression, and other computer science concepts. (all grades)
- [Scratch](#) lets students learn programming fundamentals to create their own interactive stories, games, and animations and share them with others in the online community. Along the way they learn to think creatively, reason systematically and work collaboratively. Scratch is a free service that was created at MIT. (all grades)
- [ScratchJr](#) is an introductory programming language that lets young children create their own interactive stories and games by snapping together graphical programming blocks to make characters move, jump, dance and sing. It's a free app for use on tablets. Find [TEKS-aligned lesson plans here](#), along with supplemental teaching resources and how-to videos. (PK – grade 3)
- [Educational Media to Advance Computer Science](#) includes lesson materials aligned with the Computer Science Principles framework and lesson topics which are relevant for high school students. The companion videos feature students using computer science principles to solve real-life problems. The videos help to motivate students and build their confidence as they tackle the same activities in the classroom. (high school)



Extracurriculars: Free E-Books, Student Podcasts & Turkey Math

[Open e-Books](#)

This library contains thousands of popular and award-winning titles that are **free for children from needy communities**. The e-books – for all grade levels -- can be read without checkouts or holds. The site has FAQs and how-to videos. Made possible by the Digital Public Library of America, the New York Public Library, First Book, participating publishers and foundations.



[NPR Student Podcast Challenge](#)

NPR is announcing a new Student Podcast Challenge for teachers and students in grades 5 through 12 to turn their classrooms into production studios, their assignments into scripts and their ideas into sound. The website has lots of help to get you started. The contest runs January 1 – March 31.



[STEM lessons & Turkey Leftovers](#)

What can possibly make the fourth day of turkey leftovers more palatable? Math problems, of course! These activities from Dallas nonprofit TalkSTEM use census data, maps and calculations to help kids think about food they eat, how far it travels from the farm and how to plan a table so everyone can reach the turkey.



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