

The Kindle: A White Paper



www.amazon.com/kindle

Jamie Good

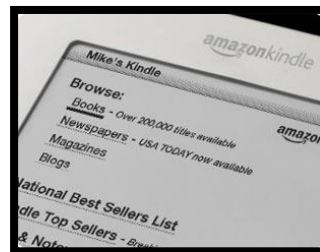
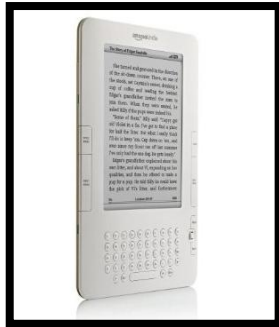
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Overview

The Kindle is an electronic device for downloading, storing, and reading electronic books, known as e-books. With instant wireless access to Amazon.com, you can select a book, download the book and have that book right in front of you in a matter of seconds. You can purchase not only books, but newspapers and subscriptions to magazines as well. This handheld device is convenient for traveling and storage since your entire library can be stored directly on the device or on your personal Amazon.com account.



How much is a Kindle?

It all depends on what features you want on your Kindle. There are three options to choose from. You can take a look at the options on www.amazon.com/kindle. One difference in the three Kindles is that some are 3G which means internet connection is available in any 3G hotspot (3G hotspots are larger than Wi-Fi hotspots). No data plan is offered or required for any on the Kindles below.

Kindle Wireless Reading Device	Kindle 3G Wireless Reading Device	Kindle DX Wireless Reading Device
Wi-Fi Screen size: 6" Display Color: Graphite	Free 3G + Wi-Fi (3G Works Globally) Screen size: 6" Display Color: Graphite or White	Free 3G (3G Works Globally) Screen size: 9.7" Display Color: Graphite
Latest Generation \$139	Latest Generation \$189	Latest Generation \$379

** Click on the price to go to the Amazon webpage to purchase that Kindle**

E-books

E-books are electronic books you download to your Kindle. Prices vary depending on the book. The Kindle Store has over 550,000 books to choose from that are \$9.99 or less. On www.amazon.com, you can purchase e-books for children like the popular *Curious George* books for \$3.16 as well as the Junie B. Jones series for \$3.89 each. There are plenty more popular titles that are e-books and more are added every day. You can also find free e-books from this website.

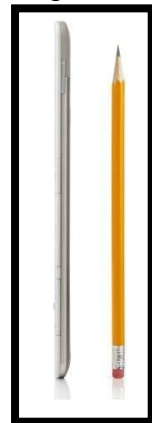
Another website that offers e-books is www.archive.org. Most of the books are free and out-of-copyright classics, like *The Adventures of Cinderella* and *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. These can be directly downloaded to your Kindle even though you are using a different website other than www.amazon.com. The largest and most trustworthy e-books are from www.amazon.com and should be kept in mind when using other sites.

Solve Classroom Problems

The Kindle can be helpful in many professions, but the following discusses how the Kindle can be used in the classroom to solve many problems that arise throughout the school year.

Storage and Space

One thing teachers do not have enough in their classroom is storage and space. Where does a teacher place all his/her personal library books for his/her students to read? There are a variety of books on various reading levels for the students to read during silent reading time as well as for free time. The math, science, writing, and computer centers take up so much space, little is left for books. If only there was a solution to this problem? There is a solution to your storage and space needs. The upcoming technology that downloads e-books in seconds, the Kindle from www.Amazon.com, could be a possible solution for you.



The Kindle is a lightweight wireless reading device that can be easily stored on a bookshelf or in a desk drawer. This device can hold more than 1,500 books on it as well as purchased e-books on your personal Amazon account. Once you purchase the book it is yours forever. With these features and many more, the Kindle can be used in the classroom. The teacher could have a class set or just a few Kindles for the students to use depending on the schools needs and funds available.



The teacher can have up to six Kindles registered to one account; his/her own personal account or a school account. The teacher can manage what e-books are on which Kindles by his/her online account. The method of payment

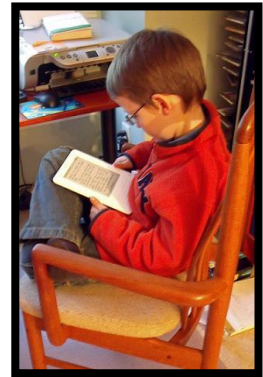
may be removed from the Amazon account, not allowing students to purchase books. Since the wireless would be turned off, because the students will not be purchasing any books, the battery life of the Kindle will last up to one month and can be charged using an outlet or USB. Both are provided with the Kindle when purchased.

Meeting the Needs of All Readers

Within one classroom, a teacher can have a group of students with a wide range of reading levels, making it difficult to provide students with books on their appropriate reading level or even multiple copies of a book. With the ability to download books in seconds, they can provide a book on the appropriate reading level or download another copy if needed.

Picture Books vs. Chapter Books

Sadly students compare themselves to their peers. One way this is done, is through the type of books they see each other read. Students assume that because a peer is reading a thick chapter book he/she must be really smart or a peer that is reading a thin picture book must not be as smart. The Kindle helps eliminate these stereotypes. No matter the book's size, all books appear the same on the Kindle.



Font Size

Students in your class may have visual impairments causing some to wear glasses. These children may struggle to read their favorite book during reading time. The Kindle has a feature built into it where the font size can be changed, making the text of the e-book smaller or larger depending on the students' needs.

Teachers that Have Used Kindles in the Classroom

A middle school teacher, Kathleen Parker, uses Kindles in her reading intervention groups. Her students say:

“One reason we like Kindles better than using a book because we can change the font size. We like the largest font because it makes us read faster. Another nice thing is to use the dictionary when we don't know what a word means right away. Also, another feature is we like the fact we don't have to carry around a lot of books because the Kindle has a variety of titles downloaded onto it” (Hill, 2010).

A few selected students from North Branford were asked to use the Kindles and in return share their feedback with administrators. The school wanted to find out if it would be beneficial to invest in Kindles for the classrooms of their school. “The students said that they also found the Kindle easy to use and preferred its sleek shape over bulky textbooks” (Misur, 2010). The media specialist expressed how excited she was about how they can meet the needs of readers that have “extra challenges” by using the Kindle (Misur, 2010).

Because the Kindle is a newer piece of technology, limited studies have been done showing their possible impact. With their growing market, research is sure to follow.

How the NETS can be met by the Students

Digital Citizenship

Students understand human, cultural, and societal issues related to technology and practice legal and ethical behavior. Students:

- a. advocate and practice safe, legal, and responsible use of information and technology.*
- b. exhibit a positive attitude toward using technology that supports collaboration, learning, and productivity.*
- c. demonstrate personal responsibility for lifelong learning.*
- d. exhibit leadership for digital citizenship.*

Students are able to meet this standard if the teacher implements rules as well as explains the proper and safe way to use a Kindle. Students need to have a clear understanding how to use a Kindle so that they can further their learning. Using a Kindle in the classroom may allow the students to develop a sense of responsibility if the rules are followed. The teacher also needs to explain that even though the e-books are digital copies, they fall under the copyright laws. The same rules apply for copying hard copy books as e-books and the proper citations when referencing them.

Technology Operations and Concepts

Students demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems, and operations. Students:

- a. understand and use technology systems.*
- b. select and use applications effectively and productively.*
- c. troubleshoot systems and applications.*
- d. transfer current knowledge to learning of new technologies.*

With the daily use of the Kindle in the classroom and becoming familiar with the functions, the students will be able to meet these NETS. One way of accomplishing this is by having the students take notes on the Kindle. This not only helps with teaching note taking, but also familiarizes students with letter placement on the keyboard. This is a skill they will continue to use throughout their life.

Environmental Factors

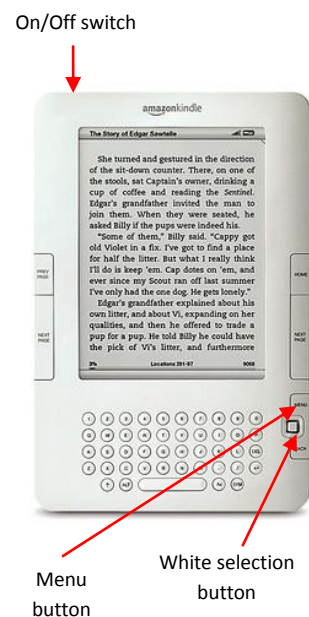
- Since the Kindle is an asset to your classroom, keeping it safely locked up when not being used is extremely important.
- Kindles do have to be charged. Having enough outlets or computers could cause a problem with this depending on what is available in your classroom.
- Keeping track of who has a Kindle in your classroom could be a problem depending on the policies you put into place so that none of them are lost.
- Because only six Kindles can be managed by one account, the teacher will need to be responsible for each account that is being used in their classroom.

How to Use a Kindle

- Once the Kindle has been purchased and received from www.amazon.com, it needs to be registered online at www.amazon.com.
- The Kindle now is registered. Books, magazines, and newspapers can be found by surfing on the web under Kindle books on www.amazon.com/kindle or search directly on the Kindle using Whispernet (wireless internet).

Downloading and Reading Books

- Step 1:** Turn on the Amazon Kindle by moving the switch, located at the top left side on the device.
- Step 2:** To purchase documents or books press the **Menu** button. Use the white selection button to select **Shop in Kindle Store**.
- Step 3:** Select the article or book desired using the white selection button.



- Step 4:** Purchase the item.
- Step 5:** The purchase is downloaded using Whisprnet.
- Step 6:** Use the white selection button (refer to diagram above) to select **Check for New Items**.
- Step 7:** Open the newly purchased item and start reading!
- Step 8:** To turn the Kindle off, slide the switch to the off position. Make sure the button is held over for a few seconds, if not the screen saver will turn on.

To Read a Book Already Purchased

Step 1: To read a stored Kindle selection; select the **Home** button, if not already at the home screen.

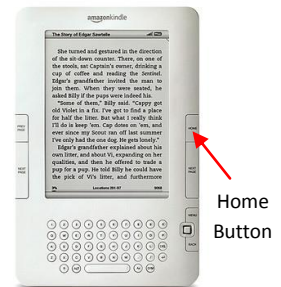
Step 2: Move the white selection button to what you would like to read.

Step 3: Once the selection is made, press the white selection button. Your chosen selection will open to the first page of the book or article; or to the last page read. Other options inside the book or article include

- **Go to Cover** which takes you to the cover of the book.
- **Go to Beginning** which takes you to the start of the book.
- **Go to Location** which will you to select a page to read.
- **Add Bookmark** which will allow you to save a location.

How to Use Some Features

- To change the font sizes for a book or article select the text button on the keyboard. The text button has both a smaller and large "A" on the keyboard button, **Aa**.
- A floating menu will appear on the screen. Select the text size by moving the white selection button among the selections. Press the button once you have



Home Button

selected the correct font. The Kindle will then return to the original page you were reading after the selection is made.

- Turn the Whispernet button on. Select the **Menu** button, using the white selection button move upward to **Turn Wireless On**.

The Benefits of Using the Kindle

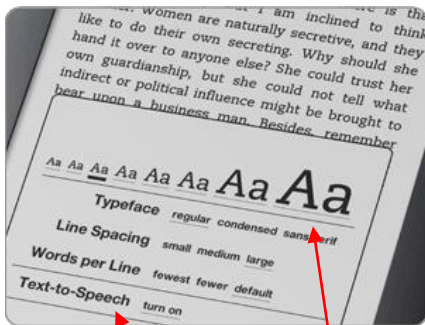
The Kindle offers many benefits from used in a classroom as well as outside the classroom.

Getting Students Excited

Students may get excited and eager to read when using a new piece of technology that offers so many helpful features. The Kindle adds a whole new way of reading and learning for students. Teachers try to get their students engaged, and using the Kindle will gain the students attention to the content being taught.

Ability to Make the Font Larger

The ability to make the font size larger on the Kindle screen is a great benefit of this piece of technology. Commissioned by the Thorndike Press, a company the reprints books in large print, an action research study was conducted to see the benefits of student's reading a larger font. Discussed in



Speech-to-Text

Various font sizes

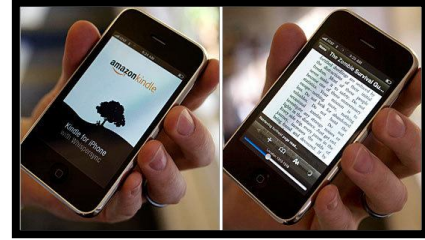
Marie Gore's article summary of the research, *Large Print and Reading Independence*, the use of large print text in books helps the readers that struggle be able to "recognize words accurately," "comprehend what they are reading," and "read fluently" (Thorndike). Making the font larger on the Kindle screen will allow fewer words on the screen, making it easier for the student to focus on the words. It is also not as overwhelming for the student, lowering their anxiety levels.

Ability to Hear the Text

Another feature the Kindle has to offer is text-to-speech option. This feature will benefit the students by allowing the Kindle to pronounce an unfamiliar word. Students may know what the word means if it was told to them. Students would not have to come up to the teacher's desk to get her to pronounce the word.

Kindle on Other Devices

www.Amazon.com offers free downloads of the Kindle software on the iPhone, iPod touch, Windows PC, Mac, BlackBerry, iPad, Android, and coming soon to the Windows Phone 7. This allows people to read Kindle e-books on these devices without having a Kindle. The Kindle device can be added and used to any of the devices mentioned above by synchronizing the reader's progress, bookmarks added, and notes made.



Other Benefits to Keep in Mind

- The Kindle is environmentally friendly. Every book you purchase on your Kindle is a tree that you are saving.
- There is a built-in dictionary where you can look up a word in seconds.
- Students can highlight passages, take notes, and bookmark pages. (You can transfer these to the Kindle on your desktop to organize, edit, and print.)
- Since the Kindle is a lightweight device, the students will not have to carry a heavy book bag full of books.
- The Kindle has a matte finish on the screen providing a screen that is glare free.
- Teachers and/or students can transfer .pdf files to the Kindle by using the USB that comes with the Kindle.
- Teachers can download MP3s to the Kindle for the students to listen to whether it is podcasts or music.
- If the Kindles are registered to the same Amazon account, you can share up to 6 copies of the same book to different Kindles for students to read at the same time.

The Drawbacks of Using the Kindle

- The Kindle is a useful piece of technology to use in the classroom, but with the price being so high; it may be difficult to receive funding to purchase a set for your class.
- The Kindle is a greater loss if a student or teacher loses it. Where as if a hard copy of a book is lost, it will not cost that much to replace it.
- If you forget to charge the battery and the battery runs out, you have to wait until it has charged up some to be able to continue to read.

- Note: The battery can last up to one month with the wireless turned off and can be charged using an outlet or USB. (Both are provided with the Kindle.)

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