

64 - Emojis

Did you know there are over 3,521 emojis? And that emojis is the fastest growing language in the world? But who created emojis in the first place and why does everyone ❤️ to use them so much?

Many scholars believe the origin of emojis can be traced back to March 30, 1881 -- when an American magazine called *Puck*, published four faces made out of typed punctuation marks. The faces -- created with periods, dashes and parentheses -- showed joy; indifference (meh); astonishment/surprise and melancholy which is an old school way of saying sad face. They called it typographical art.

These typed "faces" were an early form of an emoticon which is short for "emotion icon." They help us communicate how we're feeling without words. Before emojis, emoticons helped people understand one another better -- especially in the 1980's, when computers were first becoming a big thing and people weren't able to see the face of the person they were communicating with!

A Smarty pants college professor at Carnegie Melon suggested creating a happy or sad face by typing a colon for eyes, a dash for a mouth and a parenthesis for a smile or frown using a computer keyboard. These symbols helped us understand each other better in the absence of seeing or hearing one another.

Things you'll learn

1. Who invented emojis and why?
2. What are the most popular emojis? What does that tell us about ourselves?
3. What percentage of Internet users use emojis? How is the language of emojis growing?

Activities

1. Let everyone in the house know how you are feeling with these [Emoji Masks](#). Make different masks and trade them for fun selfies!
2. These emoji pom poms are fun and easy to make! You could even make some extras and share them with a sibling or a friend. [This](#) website even has a great time saving suggestion.
3. Coasters aren't only for adults! [These](#) emoji coasters are fun and practical. Just make sure you ask an adult for help with the iron.

Additional Resources

Emojis help us express our emotions through text and writing. Sometimes, kids need a little extra help expressing the emotion they are feeling without getting overwhelmed. Check out [this](#) fun activity that encourages kids to work on expressing and talking about their feelings.

Kid News

What is your favorite kind of cereal? For a cat named Trash Panda, it's Fruity Pebbles. Trash Panda is the mascot for Fulton County Emergency Services and Disaster Agency and has gone viral in his public service videos. He was recently awarded the honor of having his face on a cereal box, an occasion usually reserved for athletes. You can read more about Trash Panda and his love of cereal and public safety [here](#).¹

¹ This activity guide is for the Who Smarted? podcast www.WhoSmarted.com