6 Using the Internet for collecting Information and Communication
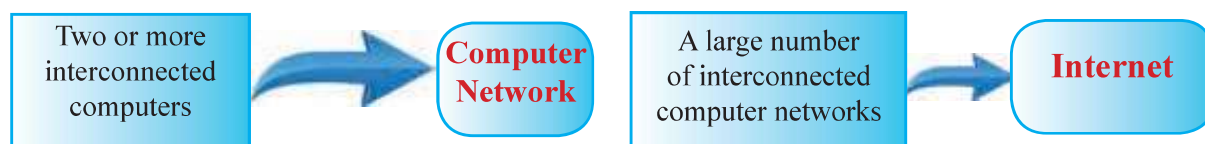
Let's learn about the Internet

Brother, our teacher said that we can find information on sea creatures from the internet. What do you mean by the internet?

The internet is a large collection of computer networks.

The internet is made up of a large number of computers and computer networks around the world.

Two or more interconnected computers → **Computer Network** A large number of interconnected computer networks → **Internet**

There are a wide range of services available on the internet reading such as reading newspapers, bill payments, online shopping, exchange of letters and watching television.

Figure 6.1 - Model of a Web Page

6.2.1 / Web Browser

You open a website or a web page in a web browser. The software used to open websites and webpages on the internet is the web browser.

Eg:

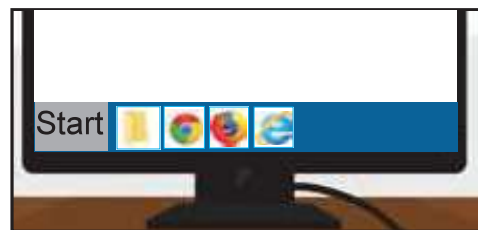Google Chrome   Internet Explorer   Mozilla Firefox

6.2.2 / Use of Web Browsers

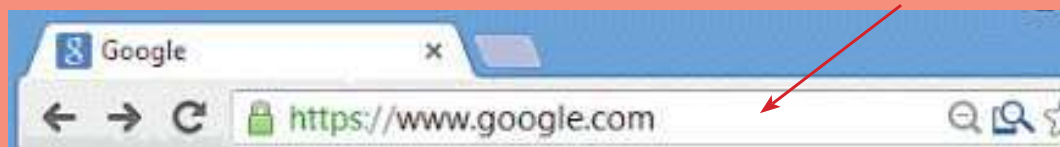To use a web browser, the computer should be connected to the internet.

Normally a web browser can be opened via a shortcut on the desktop.

The address bar can be seen on the top of the web browser's interface.
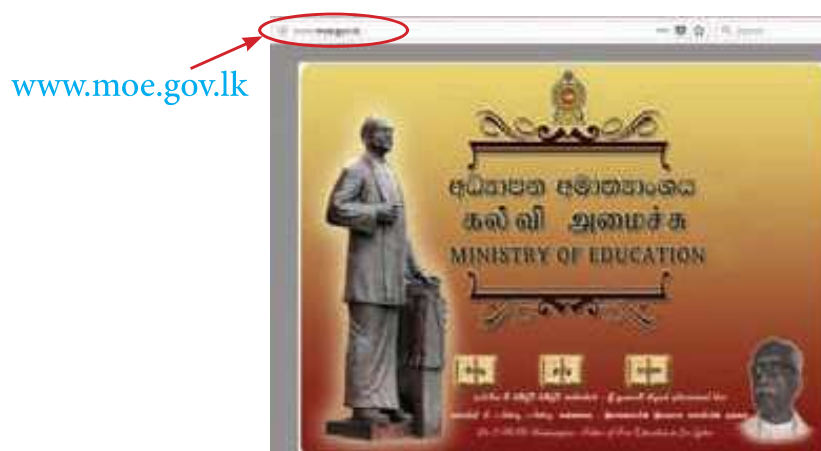
Address bar

If you want to open a website, you need to enter an address in the address bar.
Bring the cursor on to the address bar and click on it. Then enter the address directly. Then press the enter key.

Eg: Accessing the website of the Ministry of Education
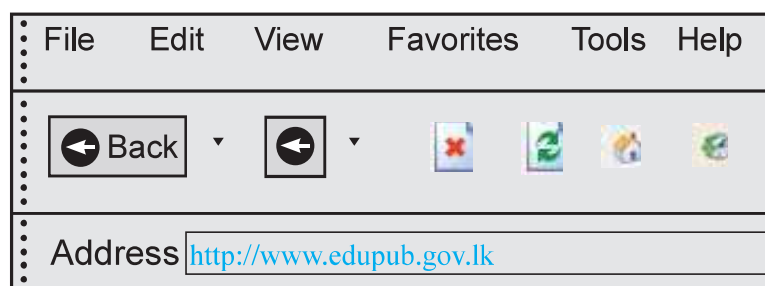

www.moe.gov.lk

Figure 6.2 - Website of the Ministry of Education

If you have typed the address previously, it will be displayed. Hence, bring the cursor and click on it.

Figure 6.3 - Address Bar

There is a toolbar in the web browser. These toolbars can be used to change websites and update web pages.

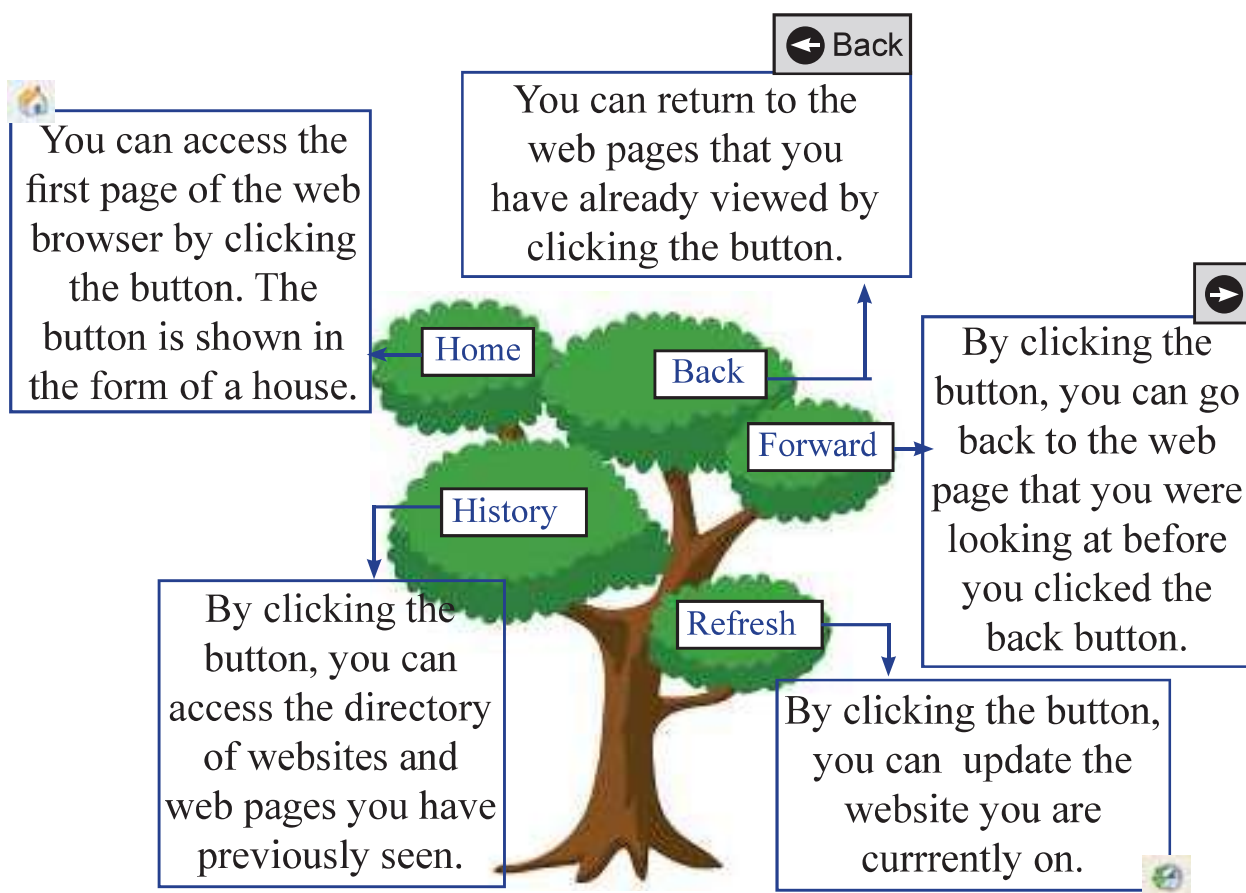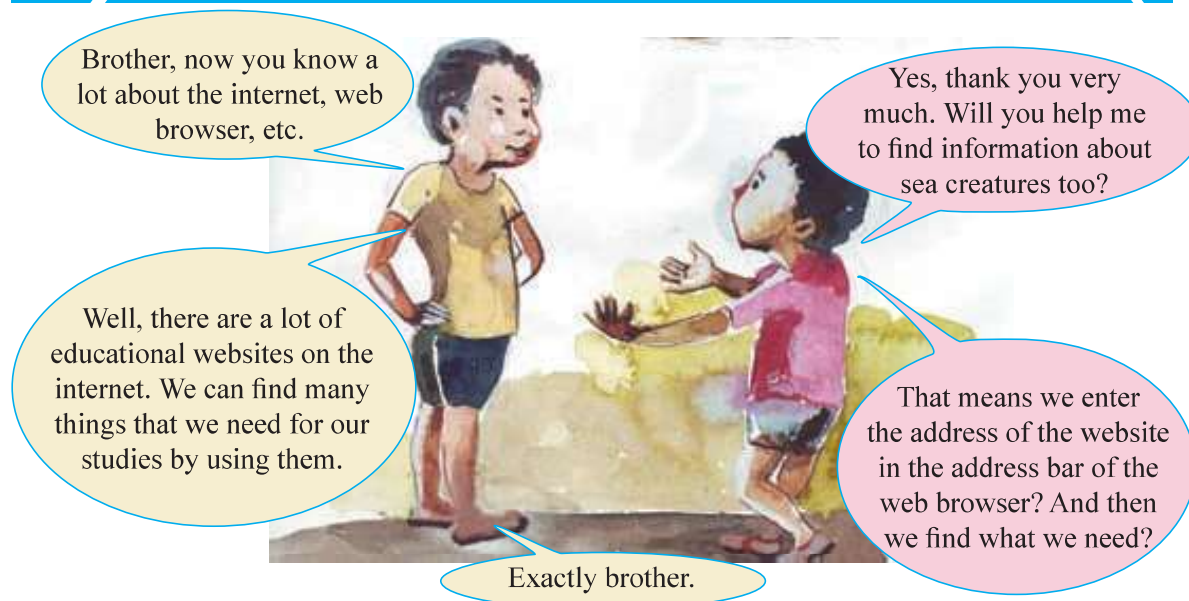Figure 6.4 - Web Address of the Educational Publications Department

Back

You can return to the web pages that you have already viewed by clicking the button.

You can access the first page of the web browser by clicking the button. The button is shown in the form of a house.

Home

Back

Forward

By clicking the button, you can go back to the web page that you were looking at before you clicked the back button.

History

By clicking the button, you can access the directory of websites and web pages you have previously seen.

Refresh

By clicking the button, you can update the website you are currrently on.

Figure 6.5 - Some Buttons in a Web Browser

6.3 Obtaining Information from Educational Websites

Brother, now you know a lot about the internet, web browser, etc.

Yes, thank you very much. Will you help me to find information about sea creatures too?

Well, there are a lot of educational websites on the internet. We can find many things that we need for our studies by using them.

That means we enter the address of the website in the address bar of the web browser? And then we find what we need?

Exactly brother.

There are a lot of educational websites on the internet and we can get many information regarding our studies. In order to enter a website the address of the web site should be entered in the address bar of the web browser.
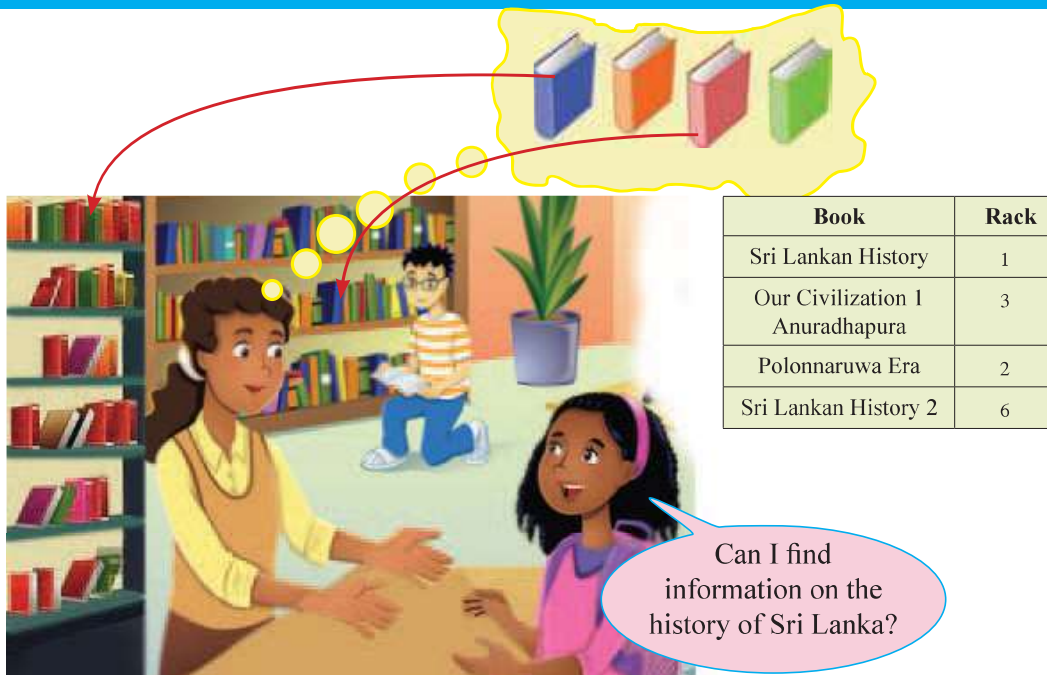
Example : www.bbc.com/bitesize

6.4 Let's learn about Search Engines

Brother, do we need to remember all the addresses of websites to find information?

No. No.We can also find information using search engines as we access websites.

Please tell me about that too.

A search engines is a software that can be used to find information on the internet. This gives you a list of websites related to the facts that we are searching for.

Book	Rack
Sri Lankan History	1
Our Civilization 1 Anuradhapura	3
Polonnaruwa Era	2
Sri Lankan History 2	6

Can I find information on the history of Sri Lanka?

To assist Yalini to find information, the librarian should know the books about the history of Sri Lanka and know the location of books.
In the end, a list of names of the books and the place where the books are placed will be provided.

Can I find information on the history of Sri Lanka?

To help Anne to find the information, the search engine should know about websites or web pages that contain information on the history of Sri Lanka and they should also know the location of websites or webpages.
In the end, a list of names and addresses of websites will be available to help you find relevant websites or web addresses.

There are a large number of websites and web pages on the internet. Search engines can search anything such as recipes, news, history, science, education, etc. on those sites.

Search engines are needed to find what is most productive on the internet.

A search engine efficiently scans thousands of websites and web pages and process them.

- Examples for search engines;

        Google   - www.google.com
        Yahoo   - www.yahoo.com
        Bing   - www.bing.com


Figure 6.6 - Search Engines

Opening and Using Search Engines

To use search engines, you need to open the web browser that is installed in a computer.

The address of the search engine must be entered in the address bar.

You can enter the search engine by clicking the `Search` key on the address bar or by pressing `Enter` key on the keyboard.

There is a search box or a search field in a search engine.

Enter the key words relevant to the information and click the search button.

Your search results are shown as a list of websites and links. It will show a list of the most popular or the most suitable websites or links on the top. From that, you need to select the relevant site and click on the link to view it.

The keywords are the simplest and straightforward terms of what you are looking for.

For example,

Think that you need to search about the history of Sri Lanka. You can use

'History Sri Lanka' as a key word.

Tips for making Search Results more effective

The following short tips can be used to make your search more effective:

- Use keywords. Do not use complete sentences/questions.
  Eg: 'I need the history of Sri Lanka'.

  You should type 'Sri Lankan History' or 'History Sri Lanka' instead of 'I need the History of Sri Lanka'.

- If you cannot find what you require, try using a different word or a different expression.
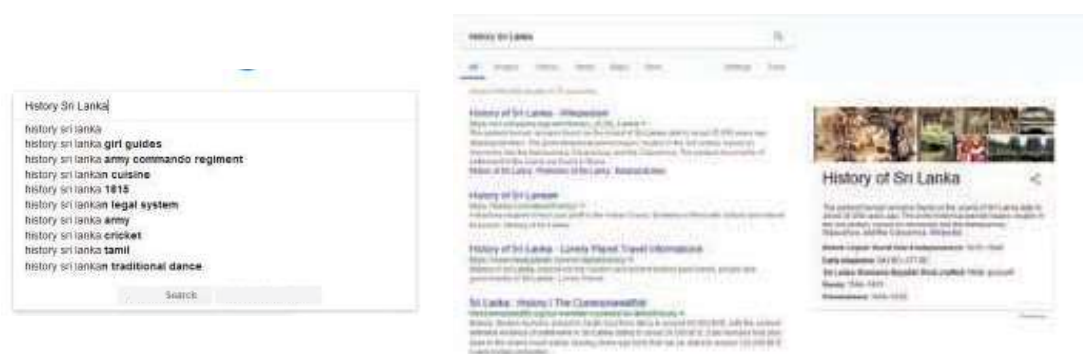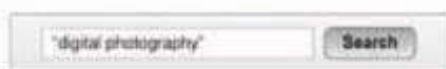

Figure 6.7 - Search Information using a Search Engine

In some searches, it will show hundreds of web pages irrelevant to your search. Be careful when selecting your search terms to avoid that. Your search engine will give an accurate result when your word is more appropriate.

1. Use inverted commas (" ") for a clause with several words.

"digital photography" Search

2. Removing unnecessary words
   Do not use words that are not relevant to your search. Do not use words like " how, and, in, to, as". Use the names of people, places or things you want to find.

names of museums in Oxford Search ❌ Oxford museums Search ✅

3. When you want to use more than one main word. Connect the words with '+' . For example, when you need to see the beautiful places in Kandy,

             It is better to use   Kandy + Beautiful place Search

4) To remove unnecessary facts
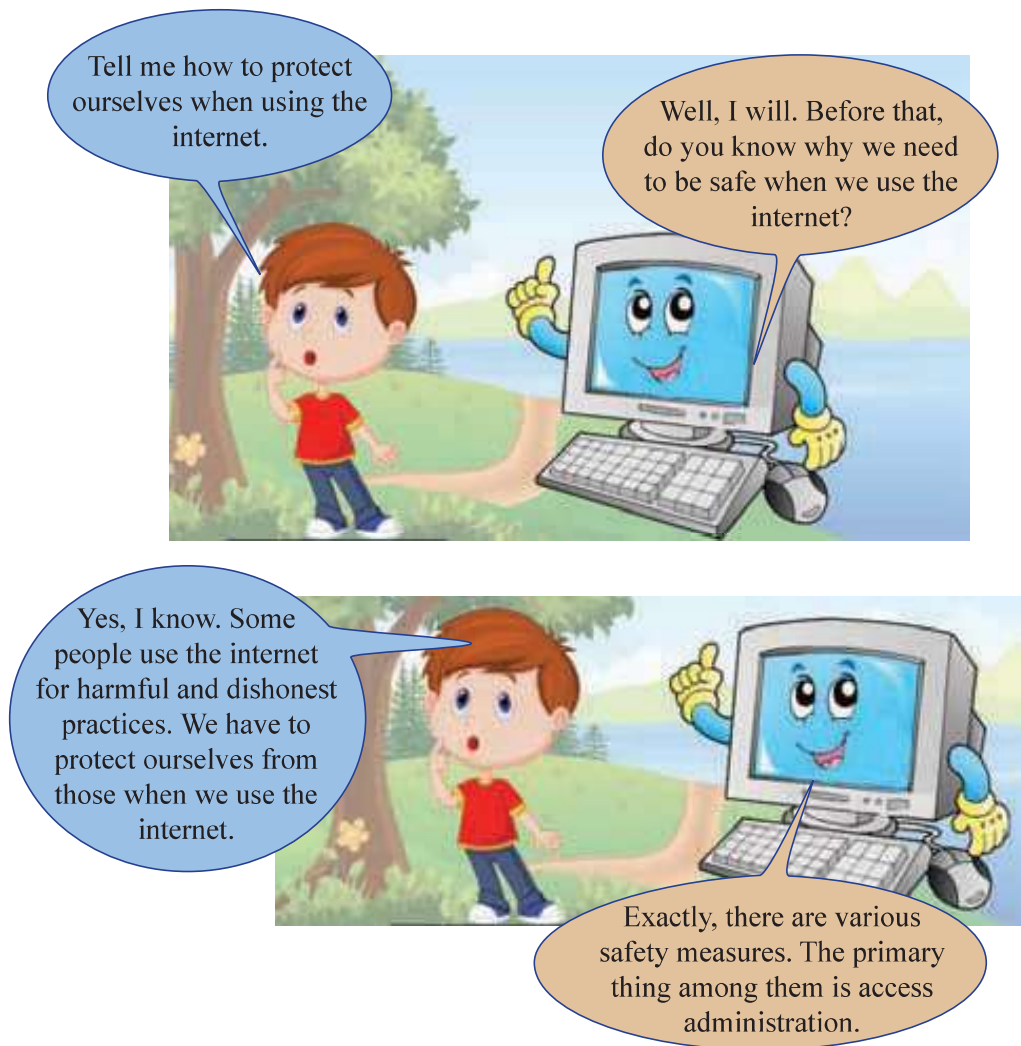   Use '-' in front of the unwanted word. For example, when you are searching for information about Wimbledon, it would show information on tennis too. So to remove details about tennis, use;

Wimbledon -tennis Search

5. When looking for an image about something, select the 'image' command of the search engine to search what you need.

Web Images Video Groups People
cars Search

The access administration is following different measures to access the internet safely and with a control. When we are using the internet, we interconnect with various computer networks and various websites around the world. Thus, it can influence our computer in many ways.

6.5.1 Provide Usernames and Passwords when Accessing Websites

In some cases, it is necessary to register usernames and passwords when accessing certain websites to obtain specific information.

Your username should not be your name. You can safeguard you identity by giving another word as the username. It should be memorable and shouldn't be easy for someone else to guess.

For a better password, use a password with letters and numbers. It's identified as a strong password.

Eg: Not a suitable password **-**   password
saman 123

           Suitable password **-**   be220mmb*
Sama89agu@

- It's safer to use different passwords for different websites.
- It is important to log out when you leave a website after using the username and password to log on.
- Do not give your password to anyone else.

6.5.2 / Use E-mail Safely

Individuals can send e-mail messages in order to access personal information, such as bank account details. We can also receive e-mails containing advertisements that are sent to thousands of people for commercial purposes.

Here are some steps you can follow to safeguard e-mails.

- Be careful when opening e-mails sent by unknown people.
- Avoid replying those e-mails and prevent from accessing links in them.
- Avoid providing information to any institution who request them through e-mails without inquring about them.

6.5.3 / Doing Safe Online Transactions

One of the important uses of the internet is that we can do online transactions and purchase goods.

But, you should be very careful. In order to purchase goods, you must use most reliable websites and you must do payments through safe methods.

It's important to follow the directions and instructions of those who have good knowledge about using the internet. At present, there is an increase in the fraudulent acts on the internet.

Be sure to get the help and guidance of your teachers, parents, or adults whenever you access the internet. It will make your browsing time more productive, satisfying and safe.

Activity 2 - See 6.2 in the Workbook.

Summary

★ The internet is a collection of a large number of computer networks.

★ There are a number of internet services that can be used to exchange information and web is one of the services.

★ Documents, pictures, videos and sounds can be exchanged through web and they are stored as webpages.
A website is created using web pages. A web address is used to identify a website.

- ★ The software used to look up web pages is the web browser.

- ★ Search engines are used to find information.

- ★ The service used to send messages via the internet is e-mail.

- ★ You can use the internet to make transactions and use secure web addresses only.

- ★ Differences between a web browser and a search engine:

Web Browser	Search Engine
It is a software used to access websites through the internet and view the web pages.	It is a programme used to find information needed from a vast collection of information on the internet. This requires a web browser.
The web address is used to access the website.	The words or phrases are used to find information.
Related website is opened.	Provides a list of relevant websites. You must select the suitable website to find the relevant information.