

# MEETING 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY CHALLENGES



How is the Internet like a prehistoric cave painting?

How does the invention of the Internet compare in importance to the invention of the printing press?

Can the Internet save lives during natural disasters?

Your son or daughter is exploring these questions and more in classroom lessons from the CyberSmart! Student Curriculum. He or she is learning about exciting, constantly changing technologies, examining how the Internet relates to communication inventions of the past, and predicting new communications technologies of the future.

### Why is the Internet called a “network of networks”?

A group of computers that are connected so that they can communicate with one another, such as in a school, is called a network. Most of these small local networks are connected to one another in a huge worldwide network. This network of networks is called the Internet.

#### CyberSmart! supports students’ exploration of Internet technology, at age-appropriate levels, including

- how the Internet relates to communication inventions of the past
- whether cyberspace is a real place and how it relates to other places they know
- how networks and the network of networks—the Internet—work
- how new communications technologies will affect people in the future

#### Here’s what families can do:

- Ask your children to describe how cyberspace is like and different from an actual physical place. Have them compare and contrast cyberspace with a fantasy place.
- Challenge your children to look around your home and predict how inventions such as toasters, refrigerators, and alarm clocks may change in the future.