

Scholastic RED System Requirements

If you have a computer that is capable of accessing the Internet, you are probably ready for Scholastic RED. The basic requirements for running a Scholastic RED course are a Macintosh or Windows computer with a color monitor, speakers or headphones (for listening to the video clips), and Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.0 (or higher) or Apple's Safari browser.

In addition, you will need several browser plug-ins (free, third-party programs that extend the capabilities of your browser). A printer is also highly recommended for printing worksheets, lesson plans, resources, and other documents for your Teacher Handbook.

Finally, you will need a connection to the Internet. This connection can be a dial-up connection using a modem and an Internet Service Provider such as AOL, Earthlink, or Juno. You can also use a high-speed connection such as a cable modem, a DSL connection, or your school's local area network.

More detailed descriptions of the system requirements for Scholastic RED are outlined below.

Computer

Scholastic RED courses will run on a wide range of computers. Basically, any Macintosh or Windows computer purchased since 1998 should be sufficient. Many older Pentium or Macintosh PowerPC-based computers will work as well if configured with sufficient memory to run Internet Explorer 5.0.

Please note that at this time, Scholastic RED does not offer support for Internet appliances such as WebTV, browsers running on handheld devices such as Blackberries or Palm Pilots, or for Unix-based computers (Linux, Solaris, etc.).

Internet Connection

Scholastic RED courses are offered online and as such, require you to have access to the Internet. Scholastic RED has been designed to be sensitive to relatively slow network connections, so just about any method of connecting to the Internet should work. We strongly recommend that you use at least a 56K modem; slower modems may work but will probably make the viewing of video clips and animations frustratingly slow. For more about viewing video clips, see the troubleshooting section on [RealPlayer](#) below.

Internet Browsers

A browser is a software program that enables you to view webpages. You are undoubtedly using a browser right now to read this page. The two most popular browsers are Microsoft's Internet Explorer and Apple's Safari. Scholastic RED is optimized to work with Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.0 or later.

If you log into Scholastic RED with a computer that does not have Internet Explorer 5.0 or newer installed, you will be taken to a prompt asking you to either download Internet Explorer 5.0 or upgrade to it if you are running an earlier version of Internet Explorer. Internet Explorer is free. However, downloading the full Internet Explorer program can take several hours over a 56K modem.

Browser Plug-ins

Scholastic RED courses require the use of several multimedia plug-ins. Multimedia plug-ins are programs that work in conjunction with your browser to allow you to view video clips, hear audio files, run animations, and view and print formatted documents. All the plug-ins used by Scholastic RED are available free-of-charge over the web directly from their publisher. The plug-ins used by Scholastic RED are Flash Player 9.0 (adobe.com/products), RealPlayer 8 (real.com), and Adobe Reader 4.0 (adobe.com/products).

If you log into Scholastic RED with a computer that does not have one of the above plug-ins installed, you will see a screen called Scholastic RED Setup that asks you to install the missing plug-in(s). Most of the plug-ins will download with just a couple of clicks and are simple to install.

Browser, Plug-ins, and Computer Settings

If your computer has Internet Explorer 5.0 or later, you should be ready to use RED. The chart below shows how Scholastic RED uses the required plug-ins and settings.

Browser Preference and Options		
Preference	Setting	Purpose
JavaScript	enabled	Allows correct formatting of pages and forms.
Cookies	enabled	Allows the system to verify you as a registered user and record your progress during a session. Scholastic RED does not attach permanent cookies to your hard disk or store personal information about you in cookies.
Plug-in Preferences and Options		
Flash Player 9.0 or later	installed	Flash, from Adobe, enables animations and demonstrations. adobe.com/products
Adobe Reader 4.0 or later	installed	Adobe Reader provides Scholastic RED courses with the ability to view and download documents in the PDF format. PDF files preserve all the formatting of the original document and are useful for viewing and printing complex documents. adobe.com/products

RealPlayer 8 or later	installed	RealPlayer 8 from RealNetworks provides Scholastic RED courses with the ability to display video clips and play audio files. www.real.com
Computer Preferences and Options		
Monitor resolution	800x600	Scholastic RED course pages are designed for monitors set to a resolution of 800x600 or higher.
Colors	16 bit, Thousands	To properly display Scholastic RED course pages, set your computer to display at least thousands of colors, also called "16 bit color" or "High Color." Setting your computer to display 256 colors will not interfere with most Scholastic RED course material, but may cause problems playing RED TV videos.

Other Browsers and Platforms

Scholastic RED chose to optimize the RED site for Internet Explorer 5.0 and later in order to deliver a consistent experience for all learners. There are several other browsers that you may find installed at your school or at home. There are also special browsers available on Internet appliances such as WebTV, devices such as a Palm handheld, and even cell phones and video game players. As of this date, Scholastic RED will work only with Macintosh and Windows-based computers running Internet Explorer 5.0 or later or Apple's Safari browser.

Special note for users of America Online and Juno

America Online (AOL) and Juno are Internet Service Providers (ISPs) who make available to their subscribers a private labeled version of Internet Explorer. Scholastic RED works best with Microsoft's own version of Internet Explorer 5.0 or later which can be downloaded online. After you connect to the Internet with the Juno or AOL service, you should minimize their browser and launch Internet Explorer directly, then proceed to ScholasticRED.com

Special note for Linux users

Due to the small number of Linux computers among Scholastic RED users, Scholastic does not test its courses on Linux systems and does not certify that they will run properly when accessed from a Linux machine. We therefore do not recommend this configuration and cannot offer customer support to users accessing courses from a Linux computer.