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What Apps Do Teens Use?

Understanding what apps your teen may be using can be a great way to know how they're using the web. Use this guide to learn more about popular apps amongst teens.



Snapchat Age: 14+ Picture Messaging

- Users can send friends pictures, videos and chats that vanish instantly after viewing, or they can post pictures/videos to their "story" where the posts remain for 24 hours.
- Map showing exact live location can be viewed by friends. Can be disabled/limited to select users.
- Spotlight page shows curated content. Some content may not be appropriate but can be filtered.



Instagram Age: 14+ Social Media

- Users can post photos/videos to their feeds to be viewed based on privacy settings.
- Users can comment on posts and "direct message" other users.
- "Stories" feature allows users to post photos/videos temporarily.
- "Suggested posts" appear based on interactions with other accounts.
- Users can "go live" to share a live video of themselves.



TikTok Age: 15+ Short-form Videos

- Videos are served up based on interest and followed accounts.
- Users can share videos, using audio from other videos or original audio, that range in duration with a maximum length of 3 minutes.
- Videos can be remixed, referred to in app as "stitch" or "duet," by others.
- Users can livestream to their followers or publicly. This feature is disabled for users under 16.



Discord Age: 13+ Group Chat & Gaming

- Users join servers that they are invited to or have links for. Servers are populated with other users and can range from small groups of friends to massive communities.
- Once in a server, users can use text-chat channels and voice-chat channels. Content in these channels is determined by server moderation.
- Mostly used by gamers to play games together.



Twitter Age: 14+ Social Media

- Users share "tweets," limited to a certain amount of characters, that can contain text, pictures, videos, and audio, to their "timeline" to be viewed based on privacy settings.
- A user's timeline is determined by the accounts or topics a user follows.
- Suggested content can also appear.
- Users can "retweet" or comment on tweets and can also "direct message" other accounts.



Reddit Age: 15+ Message Board/Forum

- A network where users can share related news, articles, thoughts, questions, photos, and videos to various hubs called "subreddits."
- Reddit does not block adult content, but this content can be filtered out within settings.
- Reddit can be used as an educational and informational forum but discretion is advised.
- Users can comment on post.



Twitch Age: 15+ Livestreaming Platform

- Users can view and share live video, usually footage captured from their computer or a live video feed.
- Content ratings are set by the creator and moderated by Twitch staff.
- Mostly used by creators streaming video games for a live audience, but has extended to crafts, concerts, cooking, gameshows, and podcasts.
- Audience members can chat with the creator and other viewers live.



Kik Age: 16+ Messaging App

- App-based alternative to standard texting with limited social media features like photo/video feeds.
- Suggested groups and search features to connect users with others that share interests.
- Users can interact with "bots" that are programs that do different functions like access the web, play games, or interact with other apps.
- No age restrictions or verifications.



WhatsApp Age: 15+ Text/Call/Chat

- Used globally for users to text and call other users, similar to their mobile device.
- Communication is limited to other WhatsApp users that have shared contact information.
- Great tool for keeping in touch with family and friends who may not be in the same country.
- Users can set statuses but there are few social features.

We have omitted Facebook and YouTube as they were determined to be commonly understood. For more information on those platforms, and the apps mentioned above, please search them on the website [#### How did we come up with this data?](https://www.common Sense Media (commonsensemedia.org) for descriptions, parent tips, and reviews.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

App selection was determined by the ETV 2022 Youth Engagement and Interest Survey, Piper & Sandler's Taking Stock With Teens Fall 2021 Survey published by Statista Research (static.poder360.com.br/2021/10/taking-socks-teens-relatorio-jovens.pdf), and author discretion. Age range was based on parent reviews from Common Sense Media ([etveducation](https://www.common Sense Media (commonsensemedia.org) for descriptions, parent tips, and reviews.). Caregiver discretion is advised.</p></div><div data-bbox=)