Skateboarding



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1 Skateboard Research

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Todd was a huge skateboarding fan. There was just one problem — he didn't have a skateboard of his own.

But today he was in luck. He'd saved enough pocket money to buy his own board. Mum and Dad said they would go with him to the skateboard shop once Todd had decided what type of board he wanted.

But Todd really wasn't sure about what type of board he needed. He'd seen heaps of different boards in lots of shops. What was the difference between them, he wondered. Todd needed to do some research so that he could buy the skateboard that suited him best.

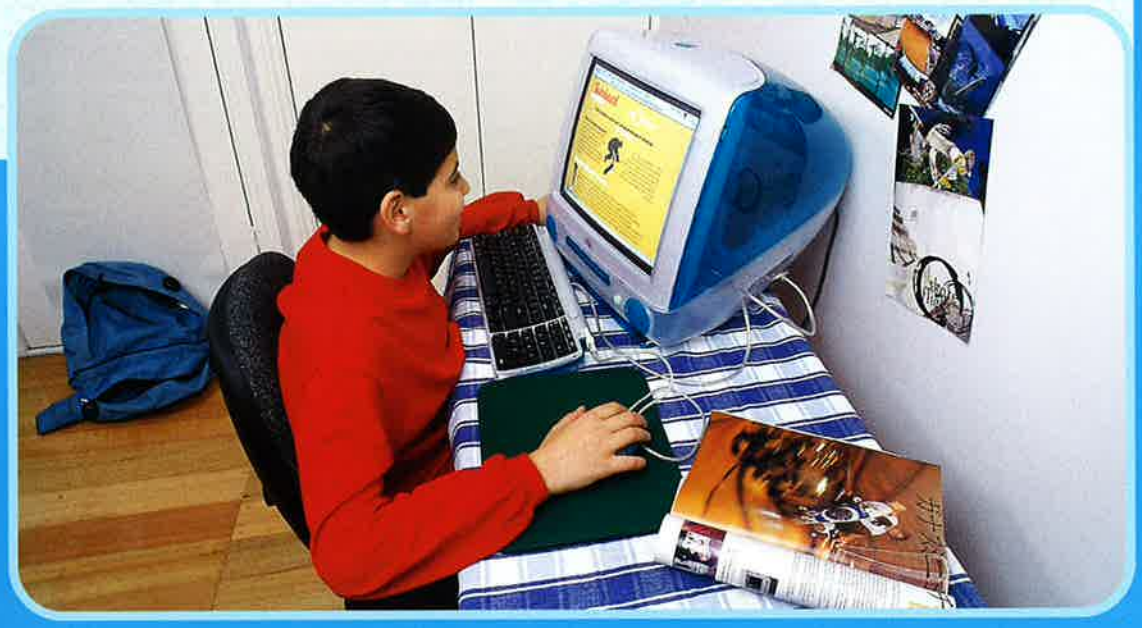


Todd decided to use the Internet to help him choose which skateboard to buy. He found that there was a wide range of boards available. Nearly every board is individual, but most of them are made from Canadian or American maple wood.



Todd discovered that there are two main types of skateboards. The main difference between them is in the weight and width of the board, and the size of the wheels. Wide boards with big wheels are used for skating on a **ramp** or in a **bowl**. Narrow boards with light wheels are used for skating on the street.

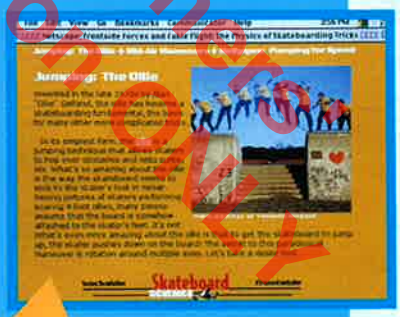




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Some of the boards Todd saw on the Internet had a high curve or **kick-tail** at the back. These boards are used for doing tricks.





One of the websites had a section on skateboards for beginners. Todd learnt that these boards are a little shorter and wider than normal boards. They have standard plastic wheels and are ideal for learning to skate.



Todd logged off the Internet and decided that a beginner's board would be best. Now he couldn't wait to get to the shop to buy his very own skateboard.

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2 Decked Out

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Todd and his parents went to the local skateboard shop. Todd knew exactly which shop they would go to because he passed it on his way home from school every day. He always stopped and looked in the window, hoping that one day he would have his own board.

The shop was full of the latest skateboards. It also had a big range of safety equipment and clothes.



Todd's father pointed to an old poster that showed a skateboarder from years ago. Todd realised how much lighter and wider the boards are today. He noticed that the shape of the boards has changed. The old boards were very flat, but the new boards are curved at the sides and at the ends. He also noticed that the skater was not wearing safety gear.



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