CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY

ALL ABOUT APPS

by Christy Mihaly

FOCUS READERS

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Christy Mihaly loves writing about science because it means she's always learning something new. She has written for young readers about topics including advanced solar power technology, genetics, and high-tech careers. She appreciates how apps help her work more efficiently and make more time for fun. Her publications include books, articles, stories, and poetry for readers of all ages.

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CHAPTER 1

APPS TO THE RESCUE

An overloaded truck bounces down a city street. It turns a corner too fast, spilling half its load onto the road. The driver speeds away, leaving a sour-smelling mess. A crowd gathers. Emergency workers arrive. What is that stinky stuff in the street? Is it dangerous?

Apps can help emergency crews determine whether substances are dangerous.

The emergency crew's captain pulls out her smartphone and gives it a few taps. Soon, she identifies the material. It's poison! The captain looks up how to clean the spill safely. She's using an app called Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders (WISER). WISER gives emergency workers the information they need to protect people. It's an app that saves lives.

You probably don't have a mystery mess on your hands. But apps can still come in handy. Apps can help you find a basketball score, listen to music, or get answers to homework questions.

Some apps help runners keep track of how far they have gone.

An app is a set of instructions that tells a computer or mobile device how to do something. Without these instructions, a smartphone would be a useless block of metal and plastic. The set of instructions that make a computer or device work is called **software**. It is written in **code**, a language that computers understand.

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