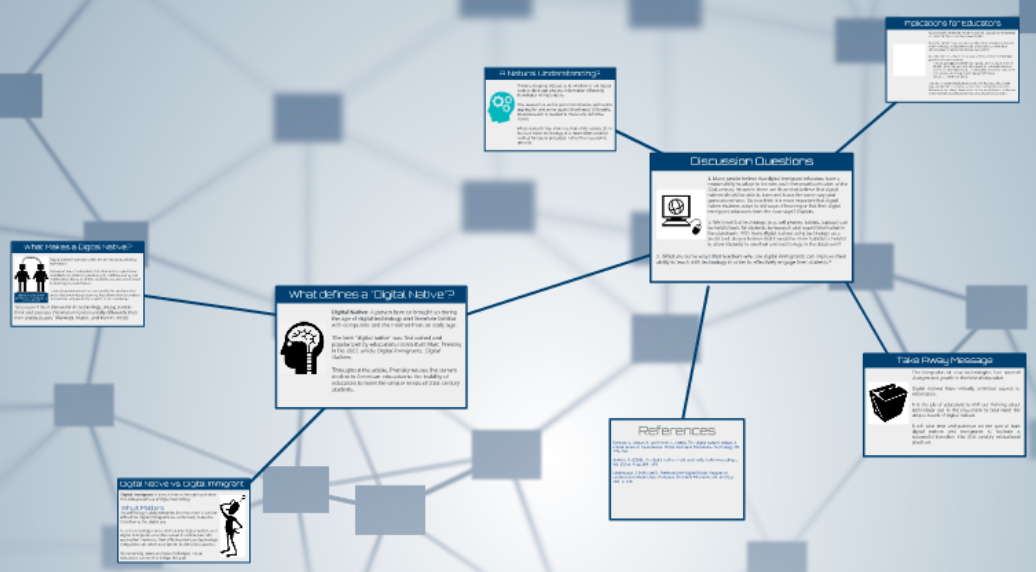


# Catalina in the Digital Age

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# What defines a "Digital Native"?

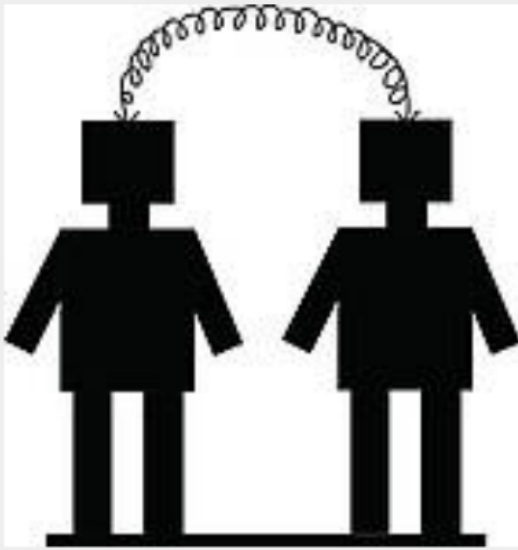


**Digital Native:** A person born or brought up during the age of digital technology and therefore familiar with computers and the Internet from an early age.

The term "digital native" was first coined and popularized by educational consultant Marc Prensky in his 2001 article *Digital Immigrants, Digital Natives*.

Throughout the article, Prensky relates the current decline in American education to the inability of educators to meet the unique needs of 21st century students.

# What Makes a Digital Native?



Students are dependent on communication technologies to access information

Digital natives have spent their entire lives surrounded by technology.

Increased use of computers and other technologies have contributed to students' proficiency in multiprocessing and multitasking. Because of this, students are also accustomed to learning at a faster pace.

Technology immersion has also resulted in students who prefer discovery-based learning that allows them to explore and actively engage in the acquisition of knowledge.

“Because of their immersion in technology, young people think and process information fundamentally differently than their predecessors” (Bennett, Maton, and Kervin, 2008)

# Digital Native vs. Digital Immigrant

**Digital Immigrant:** A person born or brought up before the widespread use of digital technology

## Why it Matters

As technology rapidly becomes the new norm, it can be difficult for digital immigrants to comfortably make the transition to the digital era.

In an increasingly connected society, digital natives and digital immigrants are often asked to collaborate with each other. However, their differing views on technology integration can serve as a barrier to their joint success.

By remaining aware of these challenges, we as educators can work to bridge the gap!

