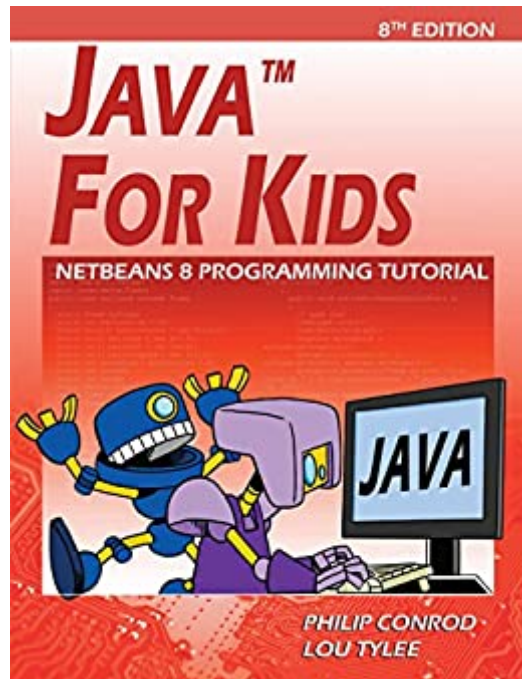




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Java For Kids: NetBeans 8 Programming Tutorial



Synopsis

JAVA FOR KIDS is a beginning programming tutorial consisting of over 400 pages explaining (in simple, easy-to-follow terms) how to build a Java application. Our Java For Kids programming tutorial has been successfully used in schools and homeschools around the world for over 10 years! Students learn about project design, object-oriented programming, console applications, graphics applications and many elements of the Java language. Numerous examples are used to demonstrate every step in the building process. The tutorial also includes several detailed computer projects for students to build and try. These projects include a number guessing game, a card game, an allowance calculator, a state capitals game, Tic-Tac-Toe, a simple drawing program, and simple video game. JAVA FOR KIDS is presented using a combination of over 400 pages of notes, playful colored illustrations and actual Java examples. This teacher or parent facilitated material should be understandable to kids aged 10 and up. No previous programming experience is necessary, but familiarity with doing common tasks using a computer operating system (simple editing, file maintenance, understanding directory structures, working on the Internet) is expected. JAVA FOR KIDS - 8TH EDITION requires a minimum of either Windows Vista 7, or 8 , MAC OS X 10.8.3+, or Linux. You will also need to download the free version of NetBeans IDE 8 and JDK8 for the computer platform you are using. The Java source code and all needed multimedia files are available for download from the publisher's website (www.KidwareSoftware.com) after book registration.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Perfect for teachers and students, home or the classroom!What is "Java for Kids" ... and how it works.The lessons "Java for Kids" are a highly organized and well-indexed set of tutorials meant for children aged 10 and above. NetBeans, a specific IDE (Integrated Development Environment) for beginners is used throughout the lessons.The tutorials provide the benefit of completed age-appropriate applications for children - fully documented projects from the teacher's or parents' point of view. That is, while full solutions are provided for the adults' (and child learner's) benefit, the projects are presented in an easy-to-follow set of lessons explaining the rational for the form layout, coding design and conventions, and specific code related to the problem. Child-learners may follow tutorials at their own pace. Every bit of the lesson is remembered as it contributes to the final solution to a kid-friendly application. The finished product is the reward, but the student is fully engaged and enriched by the process. This kind of learning is often the focus of teacher training. Every computer science teacher knows what a great deal of preparation is required for projects to work for kids. With these tutorials, the research behind the projects is done by an author who understands the classroom and parenting experience. That is extremely rare!Graduated Lessons for Every Project ... Lessons, examples, problems and projects. Graduated learning. Increasing and appropriate difficulty... Great results.With these projects, there are lessons providing a comprehensive, kid-friendly background on the programming topics to be covered. Once understood, concepts are easily applicable to a variety of applications. Then, specific examples are drawn out so that a young learner can practice with the NetBeans environment. Then specific Java coding for the example is provided so that the user can see all the parts of the project come together for the finished product.By presenting lessons in this graduated manner, students are fully engaged and appropriately challenged to become independent thinkers who can come up with their own project ideas and design their own forms and do their own coding. Once the process is learned, then student engagement is unlimited! I have seen literacy improve dramatically because students cannot get enough of what is being presented.Indeed, lessons encourage accelerated learning - in

the sense that they provide an enriched environment to learn computer science, but they also encourage accelerating learning because students cannot put the lessons away once they start! Computer science provides this unique opportunity to challenge students, and it is a great testament to the authors that they are successful in achieving such levels of engagement with consistency. My History with Kidware Software products. I have used Kidware's Programming Tutorials for over a decade to keep up my own learning. By using these lessons, I am able to spend time on things which will pay off in the classroom. I do not waste valuable time ensconced in language reference libraries for programming environments - help screens which can never be fully remembered! These projects are examples of how student projects should be as final products - thus, the pathway to learning is clear and immediate in every project. If I want to use or expand upon some of the projects for student use, then I take advantage of site-license options. I have found it very straight forward to emphasize the fundamental computer science topics that form the basis of these projects when using them in the classroom. I can list some computer science topics which everyone will recognize, regardless of where they teach - topics which are covered expertly by these tutorials: * Data Types and Ranges * Scope of Variables * Naming Conventions * Decision Making * Looping * Language Functions - String, Date, Numerical * Arrays * Writing Your own Methods (subroutines) and more... it's all integrated into the tutorials. In many States or Provinces, the above-listed topics would not be formally introduced in Middle School computer studies, but would form the basis of most projects undertaken by students. With these tutorials, you as the teacher or parent may choose where to put the emphasis, to be sure to cover the curricular expectations of your curriculum documents. Any further Middle school computer programming topics derive directly from those listed above. Nothing is forgotten. All can be integrated with the lessons provided. Quick learning curve for teachers! How teachers can use the product: Having projects completed ahead of time can allow the teacher to present the design aspect of the project FIRST, and then have students do all of their learning in the context of what is required in the finished product. This is a much faster learning curve than if students designed all of their own projects from scratch. Lessons concentrating on a unified outcome for all makes for much more streamlined engagement for students (and that is what they need, in Middle school, and in grades 9 and 10), as they complete more projects within a short period of time and there is a context for everything that is learned. With the Java for Kids tutorials, sound advice regarding generally accepted coding strategies ("build and test your code in stages", "learn input, output, formatting and data storage strategies for different data types" etc..) encourage independent thought processes among learners. After mastery, then it is much more likely that students can create their own problems and solutions from scratch. Students are ready to create

their own summative projects for your computer science course - or just for fun, and they may think of projects for their other courses as well! And what could be wrong with asking the students' other teachers what they would like to see as project extensions?

Meets State and Provincial Curriculum Expectations and More

Different states and provinces have their own curriculum requirements for computer science. With the Kidware Software products, you have at your disposal a series of projects which will allow you to pick and choose from among those which best suit your curriculum needs. Students focus upon design stages and sound problem-solving techniques from a computer-science, problem-solving perspective. In doing so, they become independent problem-solvers, and will exceed the curricular requirements of Middle schools and Secondary schools everywhere.

Useable projects - Out of the box!

The specific projects covered in the Java for Kids tutorials are suitable for students aged 10 and above. Specific kid-friendly tutorials and projects are found in the Contents document, and include

- Sub-Sandwich Party
- Savings Calculator
- Guess the Number Game
- Lemonade Stand
- Card Wars
- Blackboard Fun (GUI, meaning it has a Graphical User Interface)
- Balloons (GUI)

And, from the final chapter,

- Computer Stopwatch
- Dice Rolling
- State Capitals
- Tic-Tac-Toe (GUI)
- Memory Game (GUI)
- Pong (GUI)

As you can see, there is a high degree of care taken so that projects are age-appropriate. You as a parent or teacher can begin teaching the projects on the first day. It's easy for the adult to have done their own learning by starting with the solution files. Then, they will see how all of the parts of the lesson fall into place. Even a novice could make use of the accompanying lessons.

How to teach students to use the materials.

In a Middle school situation, parents or teachers might be tempted to spend considerable amounts of time at the projector or computer screen going over the tutorial - but the best strategy is to present the finished product first! That way, provided that the adult has covered the basic concepts listed in the table of contents, then students will quickly grasp how to use the written lessons on their own. Lessons will be fun, and the pay-off for younger students is that there is always a finished product which is fun to use!

Highly organized reference materials for student self-study!

Materials already condense what is available from Java SDK help files (which tends to be written for adults) and in a context and age-appropriate manner, so that younger students remember what they learn. The time savings for parents, teachers and students is enormous as they need not sift through pages and pages of on-line help to find what they need.

How to mark the projects.

In a classroom environment, it is possible for teachers to mark student progress by asking questions during the various problem design and coding stages. In the early grades (grades 5 to 8) teachers can make their own oral, pictorial review or written pop quizzes easily from the reference material provided as a review strategy from day to day. I have found the requirement of completing projects (mastery) sufficient for

gathering information about student progress - especially in the later grades (grades 10 to 12). Lessons encourage your own programming extensions. Once concepts are learned, it is difficult to NOT know what to do for your own projects. This is true even at the Middle school level - where applications can be made in as short as 10 minutes (a high-low guessing game, or a temperature conversion program, for example), or 1 period in length - if one wished to expand upon any of the projects using the "Other Things to Try" suggestions. Having used Kidware Software tutorials for the past decade, I have to say that I could not have achieved the level of success which is now applied in the variety of many programming environments which are currently of considerable interest to kids! I thank Kidware Software and its authors for continuing to stand for what is right in the teaching methodologies which work with kids - even today's kids where competition for their attention is now so much an issue. Regards, Alan Payne, B.A.H., B.Ed. TA Blakelock High School Oakville, Ontario

I have taught Java coding to students using this company's books and have found great success. Even if you've never written a line of code in your life, you'll find success with this book. It's intelligently written and will allow you to bring programming into your classroom. Java is a very important language to teach kids because it easily represents 80% - 90% of the regular business world, in terms of custom applications written for internal business processes. In terms of employability, Java is a wonderful language for kids to know. The book's content is age-appropriate and thorough. If you use this book as your classroom text, I would recommend that you use a direct instruction technique as you'll find your instruction more efficacious than if the students try to go it alone (though there are undoubtedly some gifted learners that will not have a problem with the book or the instructions). Do not let Oracle NetBeans scare you! It's a great free product with lots of features and it is one that you'll learn quickly if you have any kind of technical aptitude at all. NetBeans is what we call an Interactive Development Environment (IDE), and it is what you'll use to write, debug, and compile your Java code. The way I handle direct instruction using these books is to bring the students together and then we all begin to write some of the code. I do not anticipate that we'll finish entire long sections of code and I think it's important that kids understand they're not likely to bang out a big program in just a day. I stop periodically and explain some of the more challenging lines, teaching kids to read code from the inside out (when there are nested statements), using the board to illustrate how for-loops work, and breaking down other code components so that they're more digestible by kids. There are lots of imaginative ways to illustrate tough logical elements such as data arrays. I believe that if you carefully craft your class so that the kids participate with you, but then you give them extra assignments to do in order to assess their

learning, you will find that your students rapidly assimilate the coding. Bill Heldman Computer Science and Cybersecurity Instructor Warren Tech Lakewood, CO

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