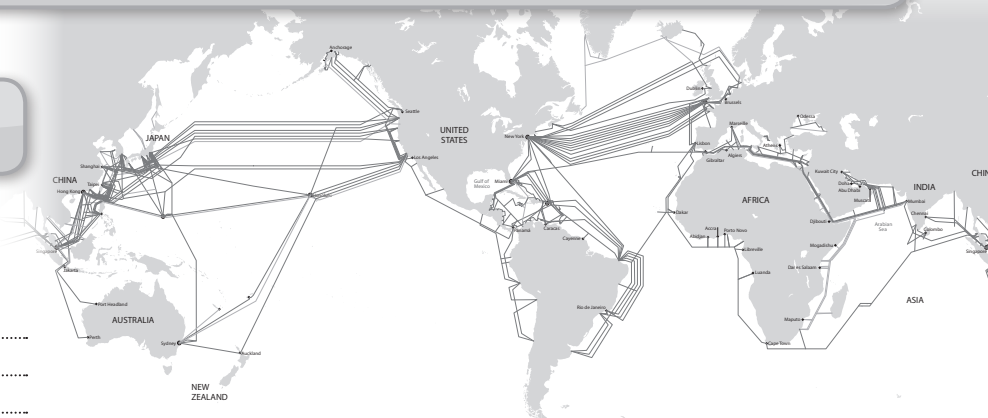




# Unit 10 Global communication

## Cross-curricular – Geography/Science A real web around the world

- 1 Popatrz na mapę i tytuł artykułu prasowego. Tekst dotyczy prawdziwego zdarzenia. Jak myślisz, co się stało?



Just one ship was responsible for breaking an essential submarine cable that connects the Middle East and India with the rest of the world via the Internet. This has left 75 million people with only limited access to the Internet.

The accident was caused on Wednesday by a ship in bad weather near the coast of Egypt, close to Alexandria. Since then, there have been terrible problems with phones and the Internet in countries including India, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates. It has been a problem for approximately 70% of users there.

Tens of millions of people have had problems with phones and the Net. It has also made a big difference to economies across Asia and the Middle East. Governments have started to take direct action. To help businesses, the Egyptian Communications Ministry has asked surfers not to connect to the Internet. 'People who download music and films are going to make problems for businesses who have more important things to do.'

Experts say that this shows that our global communications network is very fragile. 'People don't know that all these things go through cables under the sea,' said Alan Mauldin, an expert in communications. 'In general, the Internet uses real, physical connections, not satellites.'

People think the Internet always works by satellite. But a big part of the world needs real, physical connections. It was not easy to create these connections. The expensive cables go in long lines around the world, carrying millions of conversations all at the same time from one country to another.

One expert said that this week's accident should make governments understand that they must spend more time and energy to protect essential communications such as mobile phones and the Net. We must protect them from natural disasters or from terrorists. 'It would be very easy to attack global communications,' said Mustafa Alani, head of security and terrorism at the Gulf Research Centre in Dubai. 'The important thing isn't building great new technology. The important thing is to protect it.'

One of the cables that was broken this week is called the Sea-Me-We 4. It is one of the most important information lines between Europe and the East. It goes in a continuous line from Germany to Singapore. It covers a total of 39,000 kilometres and connects 32 different countries. It took three years and cost an incredible £500m to put the line in place.

## How one ship cut off the web for 75 million people

- 2 Przeczytaj artykuł i sprawdź swoje pomysły z ćwiczenia 1. Co oznaczają linie ciągłe na mapie?

### WORD BOOSTER

Dopasuj wyrazy 1–4 do definicji a–d.

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 1 submarine  | a strong, thick metal rope                            |
| 2 cable      | b easy to break                                       |
| 3 businesses | c under the water                                     |
| 4 fragile    | d organisations that buy or sell products or services |

- 3 Zdecyduj, jaki jest najważniejszy przekaz w tekście: 1, 2 czy 3.

- 1 It is important to create Internet connections by satellite.
- 2 It is important to defend existing cables because something or somebody could break them again.
- 3 It is important to learn better ways of creating new technology.

- 4 Przeczytaj ponownie tekst i zdecyduj, czy poniższe zdania 1–5 są zgodne z jego treścią (T – true), czy – nie (F – false). Zapisz, w których wersach znajduje się odpowiedź.

- 1 An accident at sea on Wednesday made it difficult for people to access the Internet. ....
- 2 Since Wednesday it has been impossible for anyone in India to connect to the Internet. ....
- 3 The incident has caused problems in the financial markets of some of these countries. ....
- 4 Without cables under the sea, the Internet would not work in many parts of the world. ....
- 5 It is quite cheap and easy to install submarine cables. ....

- 5 Odpowiedz na pytanie.

How important is the Internet in your daily life and would you survive without it?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....