

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO BLOCKCHAIN

The number one question we receive from people new to blockchain technology is "Where do I start?". With the wealth of resources out there, it can often be overwhelming to figure out where to begin. [she256](#) and [Women In Blockchain @ Boston](#) have teamed up to create a 'Beginner's Guide to Blockchain'. This guide is a consolidation of curated beginner-friendly resources that we found useful. We recommend you start by going through the primary resources, which dive into each respective topic. Then, if you're comfortable with that material and are interested in diving deeper, consider the secondary resources. For the most up-to-date version of this guide, click either of the two links above.

We hope that through this guide you will be able to explore your curiosity and begin your journey in the blockchain space. **Please share this guide with anyone you think will benefit from it.** If you would like to request an edit or leave feedback, please DM us on twitter or email us!

-- [Manasi Vora](#) (blockchaingirls@gmail.com) & [Medha Kothari](#) (hello@she256.org)

WELCOME TO BLOCKCHAIN

01

What is blockchain technology?

PRIMARY

- [5 Explanations](#) (video, 18 mins)
- [WTF is The Blockchain?](#) (article, 18 mins)

SECONDARY

- [What is Blockchain Technology?](#) (article, 23 mins)
- [Top 5 Blockchain Benefits Transforming Your Industry](#) (article, 3 mins)

Why does it matter?

PRIMARY

- [Why Decentralization Matters](#) (article, 9 mins)
- [Crypto Networks and Why They Matter](#) (video, 38 mins)

SECONDARY

- [Alex Gladstein on Why Bitcoin Matters for Freedom](#) (podcast, 1 hr 25 mins)

CRYPTOCURRENCY

02

What is it?

PRIMARY

- [What is Cryptocurrency?](#) (video, 2 mins)
- [What is Cryptocurrency. Guide for Beginners](#) (article, 15 mins)

SECONDARY

- [Introduction to Cryptocurrency](#) (course)

Security setup: keys and wallets

PRIMARY

- [What's a Crypto Wallet \(and How Does it Manage Digital Currency\)?](#) (article, 7 mins)

SECONDARY

- [Recommended Bitcoin Wallets](#) (resource, 2 mins)

On-ramping and exchanges

PRIMARY

- [How and Where to Buy Cryptocurrency? Overview](#) (article, 6 mins)

What are consensus protocols?

PRIMARY

- Blockchain Primitives: Cryptography & Consensus (video, 57 mins)
- What is a Blockchain Consensus Algorithm? (article, 7 mins)

SECONDARY

- Let's Take a Crack at Understanding Distributed Consensus (article, 30 mins)

Proof-of-work and mining

PRIMARY

- What is Proof-of-Work (article, 4 mins)
- Proof of Work (PoW) Consensus (article, 6 mins)

SECONDARY

- Fundamentals of Proof of Work (article, 24 mins)

Proof-of-stake and validating

PRIMARY

- Proof-of-Stake Ecosystem 101: How does PoS work? (article, 4 mins)

SECONDARY

- The History and Evolution of Proof-of-Stake (article, 6 mins)

BITCOIN

04

How does it work?

PRIMARY

- Bitcoin Explained with Emoji (article, 2 parts - 8 + 12 mins)

SECONDARY

- Bitcoin: A Peer-to-Peer Electronic Cash System (paper, 6 mins)
- Cyberphunk Women (book)

Lightning Network

PRIMARY

- What is the Lightning Network and How Can it Help Bitcoin scale? (article, 6 mins)

SECONDARY

- Payment Channels and Lightning Network (video, 1 hr 20 mins)

ETHEREUM

05

How does it work?

PRIMARY

- What is Ethereum? (article, 3 mins)
- How Does Ethereum Work, Anyway? (article, 38 mins)

SECONDARY

- Ethereum White Paper (paper, 8 mins)

Smart Contracts / dApps

PRIMARY

- What are Smart Contracts? (article, 9 mins)
- What are Dapps? (article, 4 mins)

Store of value and payments

PRIMARY

- [Defining Bitcoin: Money, Currency or Store of Value](#) (article, 11 mins)
- [Bitcoin's Intrinsic Value: Means of Payment and Store of Value](#) (article, 4 mins)

SECONDARY

- [The Bullish Case for Bitcoin](#) (article, 6 mins)

Decentralized finance (Defi)

PRIMARY

- [A Beginner's Guide to Decentralized Finance](#) (article, 9 mins)
- [What the Fi is Defi](#) (video, 30 mins)

SECONDARY

- [DeFi Onboarding Guide](#) (consolidated links)

Data Storage

PRIMARY

- [Cloud Storage](#) (article, 3 mins)
- [What is Decentralized Storage](#) (article, 8 mins)

DAOs

PRIMARY

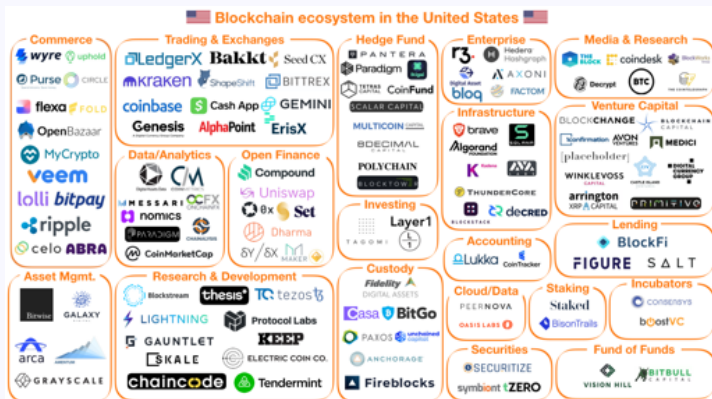
- [Decentralized Autonomous Organizations \(DAOs\) Explained](#) (article, 7 mins)

Games

PRIMARY

- [What Happened to Blockchain Gaming?](#) (article, 10 mins)

INDUSTRY LANDSCAPE



Source: [Mapping out the Blockchain Ecosystem in the US](#)

PRIMARY

- [Applications, Today and 2025](#) (video, 50 mins)

CRYPTO GLOSSARY

List of commonly used terms and what they mean

PRIMARY

- [Crypto Glossary: Cryptocurrencies and Blockchain](#) (dictionary-like)