

LESSON 1 Understanding Online Safety

Introduce your students to the tools and techniques hackers employ to grab users' information, and then guide them to protect themselves against future attacks.

Objective

Students will analyze text, citing evidence and summarizing central ideas. They will make inferences to create their own cybersecurity protection plan.

Time

45 minutes

Materials

- Copies of *#CyberSmarts* student magazine
- Create Your Online Protection Plan activity sheet

Instructions

- 1 Ask students what they think cybersecurity might mean and involve. Collect student ideas on the board. Define cybersecurity as the practice of defending computers and servers, mobile devices, electronic systems, networks, and data from malicious attacks. Ask students why they think cybersecurity is important.
- 2 Prepare students to do a close reading of the article and job profiles in the student magazine by providing them with the following guiding questions:

- Why are cybersecurity professionals necessary in today's world?
- In what ways do people leave themselves vulnerable to being hacked?
- Why is it important to take steps to protect your identity while online?

- 3 Distribute copies of the student magazine and ask students to use the questions above to focus their reading.

- 4 Lead a class discussion about how hacking might affect students, asking them to use supporting details from the magazine and specific examples from their lives. Start with: Do you feel that your personal information is secure online?

5 Explain to students that the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) put restrictions in place to protect kids' personal information. Note that COPPA also rules that social media companies cannot allow children under the age of 13 to use their services.

6 Distribute the Create Your Online Protection Plan activity sheet and guide students to refer to the magazine as they complete their plans.

Level the Lesson

Grade 6 Since many sixth-graders may be under 13, use this as an opportunity to broach the subject of social media usage. Survey the class (possibly anonymously) about the apps and sites they use or want to use. Encourage them to have a conversation with their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) about which sites are appropriate to use and ways they can enjoy supervised access.

Name _____

Create Your Online Protection Plan

When it comes to online safety, it's best to think ahead. Use the boxes below to fill in the cyber threats you are most likely to encounter, when you encounter them, and how to protect yourself.

**Cyber threat to watch for***Ex: Pop-up ads***I often see this when I'm...***Ex: Checking text messages***Strategy to protect myself***Ex: Use antivirus software***Cyber threat to watch for****I often see this when I'm...****Strategy to protect myself****Cyber threat to watch for****I often see this when I'm...****Strategy to protect myself**