Staying Safe and Secure Online

Help your students explore some of the ways their privacy and security could be at risk when they go online.

Objective
Students will play a hands-on game to learn about online cookies, complete sentences about online safety, and brainstorm their own cybersecurity solution.

Standards
ISTE

2d. Students manage their personal data to maintain digital privacy and security and are aware of data-collection technology used to track their navigation online.

4. Students use a variety of technologies within a design process to identify and solve problems by creating new, useful, or imaginative solutions.

Time
PART A: 60 minutes
PART B: 60 minutes

Materials
- 5 or 6 printed or hand-drawn pictures of cookies
- Make Safe Decisions Online! activity sheet
- Digital student magazine

Part A

1 Place 5 or 6 "cookies" around the room. Have students search for them and guess what activity may have taken place where each cookie was left (e.g., bookshelf/reading; near crayons/coloring, etc).

2 Tell them that when they look at a web page, the browser saves a piece of data called a *cookie.* You can't see the cookies, but they form a trail of clues about you online.

3 Guide students to read the Cybersecurity Tips box in the digital student magazine. Then prompt them to identify risks connected to the online actions in the chart below. Ask them to suggest ways they could make the action safer, more private, or more secure.

4 Distribute the Make Safe Decisions Online! activity sheet and have students complete it.

5 Review answers as a class, then use the Reflection Questions to guide a wrap-up discussion.

Answer key: virus; strong; date; public; trusted; purchases. **Reflection: 1.** To keep personal or valuable information safe. **2**. Use different passwords; don't put personal information in a username, post, or message; don't "check in" to share your location. **3.** Strangers can be dangerous or grown-ups pretending to be kids; tell a trusted adult.

Online action	Security risk	Ways to make it safer
I made my password my dog's name.	• weak password • easy to guess	• create a long password with letters, numbers, and special characters
I clicked on a pop-up ad to download a free catapult game.	• might download a virus or spyware	• ask an adult for permission • only download from trusted sources
My sister posted a picture, tagged her friends, and "checked in" at their school.	• strangers can find out a lot about your sister: school, friend group, your town	• adjust privacy settings • share fewer details

Name _____

Make Safe Decisions Online!

Imagine this is *your* daily online diary. For each sentence about safety, fill in the blank space with the correct vocabulary word from the list below.

trusted | date | purchases | strong | virus | public

MY HOUSE 7:12 a.m.	I was watching a video before school. A pop-up told me I won a free tablet! I didn't click on it. Clicking the link might download a _____.
MY SCHOOL 9:35 a.m.	Our teacher had us create accounts for our classroom computers. I made a very _____ password that would be hard for someone to guess.
THE MUSEUM 1:30 p.m.	I took lots of pictures on our school trip to the museum. Each photo stored information about our location and the _____ it was taken.
THE LIBRARY 3:10 p.m.	I made sure to log out of my account at the library. It's super important not to leave yourself logged in on _____ computers!
FRIEND'S HOUSE 4:15 p.m.	My friend and I were playing an online game when someone in game chat asked me where I lived. I told a _____ adult right away. I know it's not OK to give personal information to a stranger online.
GAS STATION 5:37 p.m.	My grandfather and I refilled his car's gas tank. He forgot his credit card at the pump and saw that someone else used it when he reviewed his _____ online.

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Reflection Questions

1. Why do you think that passwords are important?

2. How can you keep your personal information safe?

3. Why should you avoid strangers online? What if you're not sure if someone is a stranger or not?