Keep It Private

Essential Question

What kinds of information should I keep to myself when I use the Internet?

Lesson Overview

Students learn that many websites ask for information that is private and discuss how to responsibly handle such requests.

Students review what information is private and should not be shared without a trusted adult's permission. They view an online form that asks for private information and understand that they should never share this kind of information online. Students then view sites that ask them to create usernames, and they learn rules for safeguarding their private information when they create usernames.

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to ...

• recognize the kind of information that is private.

• understand that they should never give out private information on the Internet.

• learn to create effective usernames that protect their private information.

Materials and Preparation

• Prepare to show students an example of an online form, like the checkout page on a site like Amazon (www.amazon.com) or the registration page on a site like Etsy (www.etsy.com).

• Preview the websites SecretBuilders (www.secretbuilders.com/gameplay/gameplay.html), Scholastic's The Stacks (www.scholastic.com/kids/stacks), and LEGO® (www.lego.com) and prepare to show them to students.

• Paper and pencils

Family Resources

• Send home the **Online Security Family Tip Sheet (Elementary School)**.

Estimated time: 45 minutes

Standards Alignment –

Common Core:

grade K: RL.1, RL.4, RL.10 RI.1, RI.4, RI.10, RF.4, W.2, W.5, W.7, W.8, W.10, SL.1a, SL.1b, SL.2, SL.3, SL.4, SL.5, SL.6, L.6

grade 1: RL.1, RL.4, RI.1, RI.4, RI.10, RF.4a, W.5, W.7, W.8, L.6

grade 2: RL.1, RI.4, RI.10, RF.4a, W.2, W.7, W.8, SL.1a, SL.1b, SL.1c, SL.3, SL.6, L.6

ISTE: 1a, 1b, 5a, 5d, 6a

Key Vocabulary –

private: something that you should keep to yourself, or share only with people you trust

username: a name you make up so that you can see or do things on a website, sometimes called "screen name"

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introduction

Warm-up *(10 minutes)*

ASK:

> *What would you do if someone you don't know asked you for your address and your phone number?*

Students should be aware that they should never give out this information except with the permission of a trusted adult. You can use this as an opportunity to check that your students know this information. If they do not, help them memorize it.

DEFINE the Key Vocabulary term **private**.

EXPLAIN to students that it is important for them to know certain information about themselves, but that it is also important to keep this information private. They should keep it to themselves and not share it, except when they are dealing with trusted people such as relatives, teachers, or close friends.

INVITE students to give examples of information that they should keep private. Write down their responses on the board or chart paper so that you can return to them later in the lesson. Make sure they understand that private information includes the following:

- full name
- age
- address
- telephone number
- email address (or parents' email addresses)
- where they go to school or after school
- where their parents work

ENCOURAGE students to discuss why it is important to keep this information private. Stress that it is never safe to give out private information to people they don't know. They should always ask a parent or caregiver before they give out private information to anyone.

teach 1

Ask Before You Tell *(10 minutes)*

ASK:

> *What would you do if someone you don't know sent you an email or an instant message asking for your address or phone number?*

Students should be aware that they shouldn't give out this information online.

EXPLAIN to students that it is important to keep certain information private whenever they are using the computer. They will learn some rules to help them do this.

ENCOURAGE students to share examples of when they or someone they know has filled out a form asking for private information. Students may mention filling in their name and class at the top of student handouts or tests. They also may have seen their parents fill out permission slips or other types of forms.

SHOW students an online form that asks for private information.

ENCOURAGE students to look over the form, naming the different pieces of information it asks for.

ASK:

Do you think this is private information?	Students should recognize that things such as an address, telephone number, and email are private.

How is filling in private information on a form like telling it to a stranger in person?	Students should understand that when they give out information on the computer, it can be viewed by people they don't know.

GUIDE students to understand that children should never fill out forms like this one on their own. Only adults should fill out forms that ask for private information.

teach 2

How to Use a Username *(20 minutes)*

INVITE students to explore with you one or more of the following websites.

DEFINE the Key Vocabulary term **username**. Then click on the site(s) to show students where it asks them to make up a username.

> **SecretBuilders** (www.secretbuilders.com/gameplay/gameplay.html): Click on New Player, select an age, and then select "I'm a Girl" or "I'm a Boy."

> **Scholastic's The Stacks** (www.scholastic.com/kids/stacks): Click on Log In Now.

> **LEGO®** (www.lego.com): Click on Sign Up.

EXPLAIN to students that some websites ask them for a username before they can play games and do other things on the site. They can make up a username instead of giving out private information.

ASK:

Do you think you should use your real name, or something that includes your real name, when you make up a username?	Students should understand that their real name is private, so it should never be part of their username.

GUIDE students through the following rules and tips for creating usernames:

Rules

- Ask a parent or other trusted adult before you create a username.
- Never include any private information in your username, such as your real name, age, birthday, the name of your school or hometown, parts of your address or phone number, or email address.
- Avoid using symbols or spaces, as they are usually not allowed in usernames.

Tips

- Include the name of something that will help you remember your username, like your favorite animal, character, or toy. You might have to combine this with other words or numbers.
- If the username you create is already taken, you will have to come up with another one.
- Write down your username and password and, with the help of a parent, find a safe place to keep them in case you forget them.

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DISTRIBUTE paper and place students in pairs.

HAVE students interview their partner using the following questions, and write down their responses:

- What is your favorite pet or animal?
- What is your favorite TV show, book, or movie character?
- What are your favorite numbers?

INSTRUCT students to make up three safe usernames for their partner using information from their interview responses. They should not include their partner's name, age, school, email address, birthday, or any other private information.

INVITE students to share one or more of their usernames with the class. Encourage students to respond to one anothers' usernames, confirming that each name follows the rules they have learned.

closing

Wrap-up *(5 minutes)*

You can use these questions to assess your students' understanding of the lesson objectives.

ASK:

When might you be asked to give out private information on the computer?	Students should describe how they might sometimes be asked to fill in private information on a form. They may also mention emails and IMs.
What information should you always keep private when you are using the computer?	Students should mention name, address, telephone number, email, age, etc.
What rules should you follow when you make up a username?	Students should recognize that a secure username is one that does not include any private information and is easy to remember. They should also remember to check with an adult before they sign up on any new website.

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Keep It Private

1. When is it okay to share your full name online?

a) Never

b) If someone asks you

c) Always

2. Can you spot the private information? Mark an X through the information that you should not share with people you do not know well.


My address is
2524 Sycamore lane.

I like watermelon.
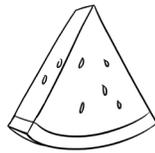
I like swimming.

My birth date is
February 5th, 2006.

3. Which username tells too much about the person that created it?
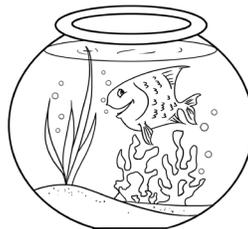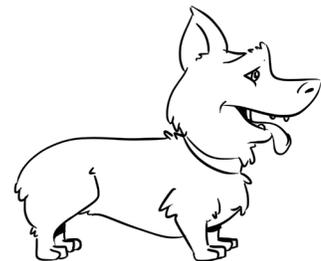
a) joe_brown_1985   b) i_love_goldfish99   c) brown_dogs_are_cool42

Keep It Private

1. When is it okay to share your full name online?

a) Never

b) If someone asks you

c) Always

Answer feedback
The correct answer is **a**. You should never give out your full name or other private information online. It is best to use just your first name or your username online.

2. Can you spot the private information? Mark an X through the information that you should not share with people you do not know well.

I like watermelon.

I like swimming.

My birth date is February 5th, 2006.

My address is 2524 Sycamore Lane.
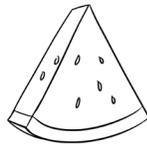
Answer feedback
Your birth date and your address are examples of private information. It is easier to stay safe when you keep private information to yourself.

3. Which username tells too much about the person that created it?
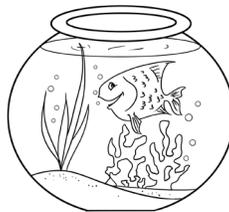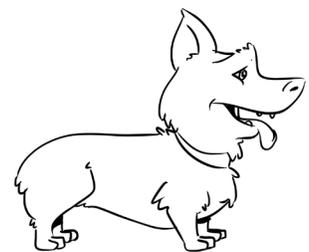
a) joe_brown_1985   b) i_love_goldfish99   c) brown_dogs_are_cool42

Answer feedback
The correct answer is **a**. The username joe_brown_1985 shares too much information because it looks like a full name and an important year — maybe the year that person was born. When you create a user name, it is important to keep private information to yourself, like your full name, birth date, address, email, and phone number.

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