



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

Learning Overview and Objectives

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 user names, and they learn rules for safeguarding their private information when they create user names.

objectives

Students will:

- Recognize the kind of information that is private
- Understand that they should never give out private information on the Internet
- Learn to create effective user names that protect their private information

Materials and Preparation

Estimated time: 45 minutes

Materials

- Paper and pencils

Preparation

- Preview the websites listed in Teach 2.

Parent Resources

- Send parents the [Security for Elementary Students Parent Tip Sheet](#)

Key Vocabulary

- **Private:** Something that you should keep to yourself, or share only with people you trust
- **User Name:** A name you make up so that you can see or do things on a website, sometimes called “screen name”



teaching plans

Introduce

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.)

TEACH the Key Vocabulary word **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:

- name
- age
- address
- telephone number
- email address or parent's email
- 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 trusted adult before they give out private information to anyone.

Teach 1: Ask Before You Tell

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 may also have seen their parents fill out permission slips or other types of forms.

SHARE with students a form that asks for private information, preferably an online form. You may show them a checkout form from an online store, or go to www.paypal.com and click on "Sign Up" and then "Get Started."

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 address, telephone number, and email are private.)

ASK *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 User Name

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

TEACH the Key Vocabulary words **user name**. Then click on the sites to show students where it asks them to make up a **user name**.

Eekoworld: www.pbskids.org/eekoworld (Look in the upper right-hand corner.)

The Stacks (Scholastic): 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 user name before they can play games and do other things on the site. They can make up a user name 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 user name?* (Students should understand that their real name is private, so it should never be part of their user name.)

GUIDE students through the following rules and tips for creating user names:

Rules

- Ask a parent or other trusted adult before you make up a user name.
- Never include any private information in your user name, 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 user names.

Tips

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

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 user names 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 user names with the class. Encourage students to respond to one another’s user names, confirming that each name follows the rules they have learned.



Wrap Up and Assess

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 user name?* (Students should recognize that a secure user name 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.)



Extension Activity

Arrange students in small groups and have them work together to create a “Private: Keep Out” poster. The poster should include a list of the kinds of information to keep private, and a set of rules for creating user names.



Homework

Students share with a parent or other adult family member the user names they created in class and the rules for secure user names. Have students work together to come up with safe user names for the adult and for other members of the family. If parents choose, they may visit a noncommercial website such as Eekoworld and sign up using a secure user name. Students should write down the user names (and passwords) and put them in a safe place in case they forget them.

Alignment with Standards – National Educational Technology Standards for Students® 2007

(Source: International Society for Technology in Education, 2007)

1. Creativity and Innovation

- a. apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes
- b. create original works as a means of personal or group expression

5. Digital Citizenship

- a. advocate and practice safe, legal, and responsible use of information and technology
- d. exhibit leadership for digital citizenship

6. Technology Operations and Concepts

- a. understand and use technology systems