Digital Citizenship

Lesson Plan | Primary and Elementary School

Lesson Time: 20-25 minutes

My Footprint

Objectives & Outcomes

Lesson Objectives: Students will be able to explain what a digital footprint is and explain why what happens online may be permanent.

Lesson Outcomes: Students will be able to ...

- identify types of personal information that is shared online
- explain why sharing personal information online could be unsafe

Subject Area Connection: Language Arts

Getting Ready

Teacher Preparation: Prepare a space in the classroom where the student footprints can be displayed. This could be a bulletin board or even the classroom door.

Materials Required:

- white construction paper
- pencils
- scissors
- crayons or markers

Key Vocabulary

digital footprint: everything you do online.

permanent: something that lasts forever.

online privacy: protecting your personal information while using the internet.

Background

Young students today are active participants in our online world. Students conduct research online; many play online games and use social media. Students need to understand that they are creating an online profile that accumulates with information over time. Entering their name, birthdate, likes, and dislikes all become part of their online portfolio, or digital footprint.

Students need to consider if they want this information to be public.

Additionally, public information can be shared online in multiple ways. Students need to be aware (not afraid) that everything they do on the Internet is archived; it creates a permanent record.

"Students need to understand that they are creating an **online profile** that accumulates with information over time."

Introduction and Modeling

Begin the lesson by writing the word "permanent" on the board. Ask students to define this term and give examples of things that are permanent. Ask students if they have ever entered their name or other personal information online when creating a profile for playing games or accessing a website. Explain that any information posted online is permanent, even if people think it "goes away." Online information is always retrievable. Everything we post online becomes part of our digital record, or digital footprint. By controlling what information we share online, students can protect their online privacy.

Tell students that they are going to create a footprint that contains personal information.

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Procedure

1. Pass out a sheet of construction paper to each student.
2. Have each student trace their foot with a pencil and cut out the shape.
3. Have students write down their name, something they like, and something they don't like on the footprint cutout.
4. Hang the footprints in the classroom and give students time to read over the information on the footprints.
5. Ask students how much they remember about the different footprints. Ask who can remember some things that other students liked or disliked that were on the footprints.
6. Explain that anyone coming into the classroom would be able to see this information and that anyone who goes online can see any information they've posted online as well. Ask them if they know why you didn't ask them to share their address or phone number. (Keeping some information private can help keep them safe, etc.)
7. Talk about why it is important to know what is okay to share online and what is not. Explain that if they are unsure about what to share online, even if it is with friends, they should ask an adult they trust, like family members, their teacher, etc.

Discussion Questions

- What kind of personal information did we share on our footprint?
- How would you feel if this information were posted somewhere public like the library, train station, or grocery store?
- How could posting personal information be dangerous?
- What type of information have you shared online?

Evaluation

Ask students to create a list of personal information that they should not share online.

Tips for Tailoring This Lesson

For Higher Grade Levels

- Ask students to review their digital footprints online and make changes to protect their privacy.
- Discuss identity theft and how sharing certain personal information can be dangerous.

For Lower Grade Levels

- Students can make a class poster that lists what is safe to share online and what isn't.
- Students can talk to an adult at home about going online with them.

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Alignment to Standards and Frameworks

Common Core State Standards: College & Career Readiness

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Anchor Standards for Language

CCRA.L.1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

Partnership for 21st Century Framework

Partnership for 21st Century Framework: the framework comprises the skills, knowledge, and expertise students should master to succeed in work and life in the 21st Century. Partnership for 21st Century Skills www.p21.org

Social and Cross-Cultural Skills

Interact Effectively with Others

- Conduct themselves in a respectable, professional manner.

International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE):

ISTE: Standards for learning, teaching and leading in the digital age

5. Digital Citizenship

Students understand human, cultural and societal issues related to technology and practice legal and ethical behavior.

a. Advocate and practice safe, legal and responsible use of information and technology

b. Exhibit a positive attitude toward using technology that supports collaboration, learning and productivity.

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