CyberSmart!

# Protecting Private Identity Information

Download Student Activity Sheet(s) for printout in PDF Format

## Overview

Students review examples of private identity information and recall the safety rule about giving out such information in cyberspace. They also explore private identity information in the context of selecting passwords and look at some students' personal Web sites, evaluating how well each protects or reveals private identity information.

## Objectives

- Relate reasons for protecting private identity information in cyberspace
- Understand the importance of passwords and describe strategies for protecting them
- Explain how to protect private identity information when designing personal Web sites

## ISTE® National Technology Standards

- Performance Indicator # 3

## Site Preview

- Site 1
- Site 2
- Site 3
- Site 4

## Online Resources

- Visit sites providing background information on Private Identity Information.

## Materials

- Activity sheets (2)
- Online computer access

## Introduce (offline)

- Assess students' understanding of private identify information. **Ask:** *What are some examples of private identity information?* (full name, postal address, name of school, school address, E-mail address, phone number, passwords, calling card number, credit card number, Social Security Number, maiden name, your parent's place of work, photos in which you can be recognized)
- · Discuss an important safety rule-not to give out private identity information without permission of a teacher, parent, or guardian.

## Teach 1 (offline)

- Distribute the activity sheets.
- · Have students read and discuss the first paragraph under "Passwords." **Ask:** *What might happen if you loaned your password to a friend?* (The friend might use the password and unknowingly do something wrong in cyberspace. Then, you might get blamed for your friend's wrongdoing.)

## Teach 2 (offline)

- Have students read and discuss the scenario about Jesse. They should recognize that Jesse's password is too obvious a choice, easily guessed, and therefore unsafe.
- Have students read and discuss the scenario about Sondra. She chose her password by combining part of her first name (so), her favorite activity (swim), and the numbers of her birth month (8) and day (4). It is a safer choice because she used no complete personal identity information and she combined letters and numbers.

## Teach 3 (online)

- Have students complete "Personal Web Sites" and share their impressions.

## Close (offline)

- **Ask:** *How are safety rules similar in the real world and in cyberspace?* Responses should include a discussion of rules about giving out private identity information to strangers.
- **Ask:** *What should you think about when choosing a safe password?* (not to use a password that is easy to guess)
- **Ask:** *What should you do if you want to include a piece of private identity information on your personal Web site?* (Ask a parent, guardian, or teacher for permission.)

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## Extend (online)

The following activities can be added for students who completed this lesson in a previous grade.

- Have students design personal Web sites that do not reveal private identity information. Depending on their technical skills, have them either use the computer or simply design on paper, showing how one page relates to another in their site.
- Alternatively, have students search for other personal Web sites and evaluate each site using the criteria discussed in this lesson.

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