



KEEPING SAFE WHILE BROWSING

KEY STANDARDS

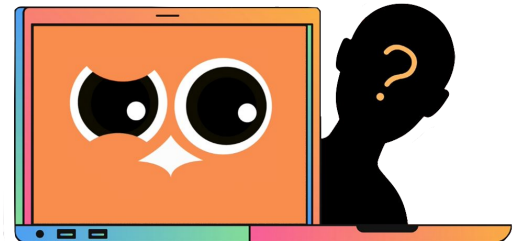
CASEL Competencies: Self Awareness (1.d,e), Responsible Decision-Making (5.d).

ISTE Standards: Empowered Learner (1.1.d), Digital Citizen (1.2.b,d).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will....

- Learn how to identify safe and secure websites.
- Understand how some websites may try to access their personal information.
- Practice using the basic safety strategies they learn in this lesson.



VOCABULARY

URL: An address on the Internet. It stands for “Uniform Resource Locator.”

UNTRUSTWORTHY: Not worthy of trust or belief.

POP-UP: A small window or banner that appears while browsing a website.

THE LESSON

1. Tell students that browsing the Internet can be a lot of fun, and educational too. After all, there are a ton of different websites with all sorts of interesting information available to us! However, whenever browsing the Internet for education or for fun, there are a few basic safety tips we should always keep in mind.
2. Screen the video, then discuss the key points.

THE LESSON, continued

- When browsing the Internet, think twice before clicking on just any old link. If you are browsing popular and common websites, you don't have to worry too much about this. However, if you run across a website that you might be unfamiliar with, make sure it is safe and secure before using it.
- One way to determine if a site is secure is by looking at its URL. Be sure students understand and record the definition:

URL: An address on the Internet. It stands for "Uniform Resource Locator."

- The URL of a safe and secure website begins with "https" (rather than "http"). Like this:

<https://pbskids.org>

- The "s" after "http" stands for secure. This means that when using the website, the user's data is protected, or "encrypted." In other words, their information or data is turned into a code in order to prevent unauthorized access to it. (Unfortunately, while "https" in the url does mean that your communication is encrypted, it doesn't *always* guarantee that the site is 100% safe.)
- Another way to check if a website is secure, is to look for the presence of a little padlock icon, like the one below. This also indicates that the website is secure.

 pbskids.org

- While most of the websites we visit are trustworthy, there are some untrustworthy websites that may try to access a user's personal information without their knowledge or consent. You can often recognize an untrustworthy site by an excessive amount of pop-ups or links that encourage users to click on them. For example, if you encounter a pop-up or link to an offer that sounds too good to be true, chances are it's untrustworthy. Be sure students understand the terms:

POP-UP: A small window or banner that appears while browsing a website.

UNTRUSTWORTHY: Not worthy of trust or belief.

- Finally, you can sometimes double-check what address a link will take you to before clicking on it. Do this by hovering your cursor over a link (like on the word "animal" below), to preview the URL.

Elephant, (family Elephantidae), largest living land [animal](#),
[characterized](#) by its long trunk (elongated upper lip and nose), columnar

<https://www.britannica.com/animal/animal>

THE LESSON, continued

3. Be sure students understand that if they are ever concerned about a website they visit, they should check in with a parent, guardian, or teacher.

ACTIVITY

Provide your students with the pages that follow and have them answer the questions. Be sure to discuss their responses. Following is your answer key.

ANSWER KEY

1. You should NOT call the number on this pop-up. Random pop-ups often use time-sensitive scare tactics to trick you into acting fast without thinking things through.
2. Yes! The “.org” suggests the site is run by an organization, and the lock icon means your information will be encrypted.
3. You should NOT click the link in this pop-up. Your clue is that the offer is just too good to be true, and therefore most likely a scam.
4. This one is tricky. If the pop-up appears on a website that you know to be secure, like a popular, verifiable brand, for example, then it is safe to enter your email. Still, you should always check with a parent or guardian before sharing this information.
5. You can go ahead and visit the link to learn more about snakes. By previewing the link you were able to confirm that the web address belongs to a trustworthy organization.

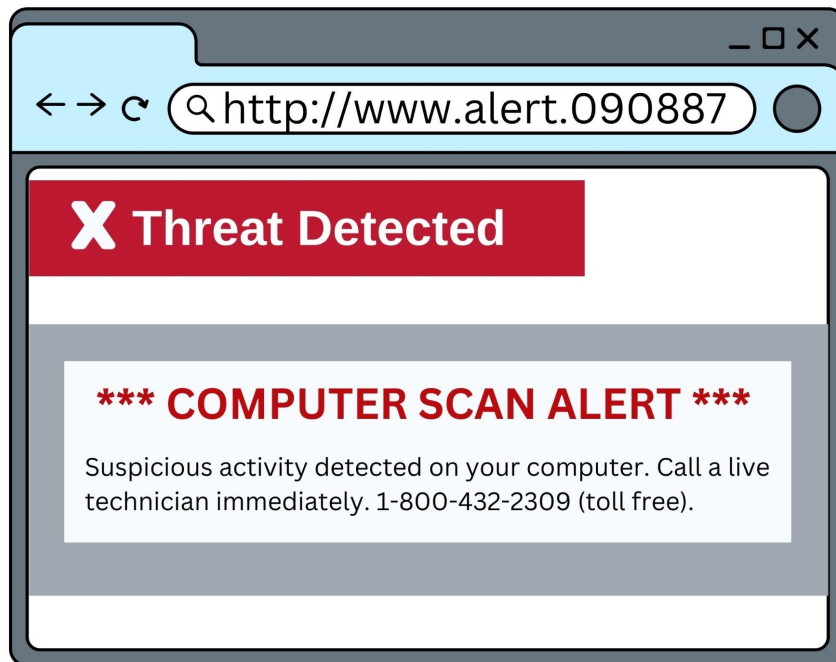
GOAL

Students will gain the basic skills necessary for keeping safe while browsing the Internet.

FOR STUDENT

Imagine you are using your family's computer and you experience the following scenarios while online. In each case, explain what you would do.

1. You are visiting a website when, suddenly, this pop-up appears:



What would you do?

What clues helped you decide what to do?

FOR STUDENT, continued

2. You are doing some research for a school report on alligators when you find this website:

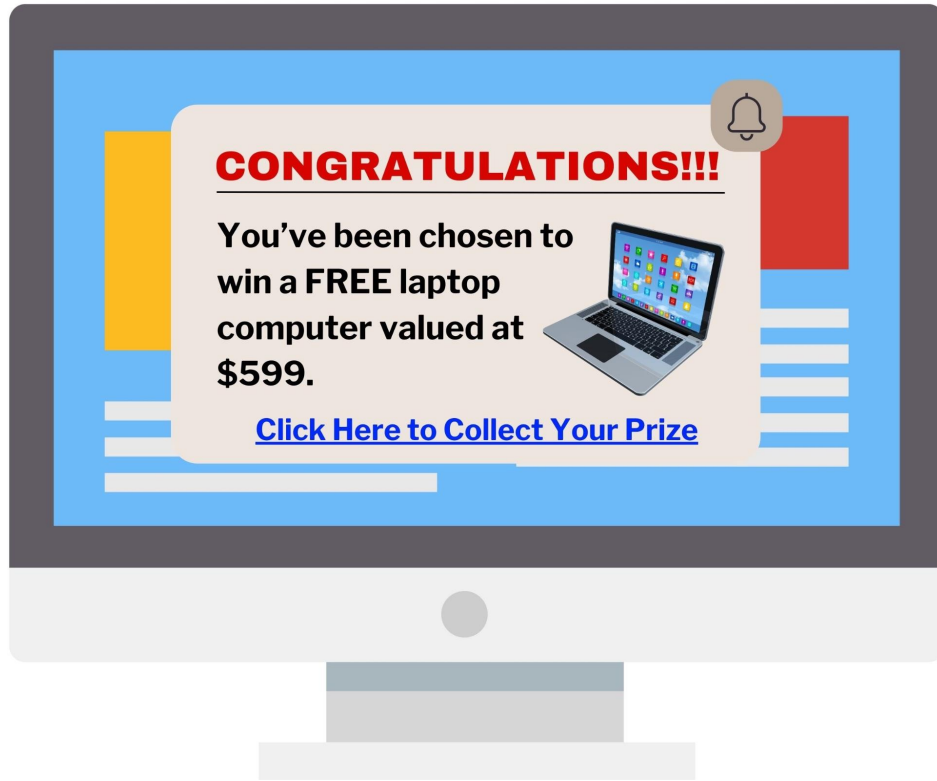


Would you visit this website?

What clues helped you decide what to do?

FOR STUDENT, continued

3. You see this pop-up while browsing on your family's computer:

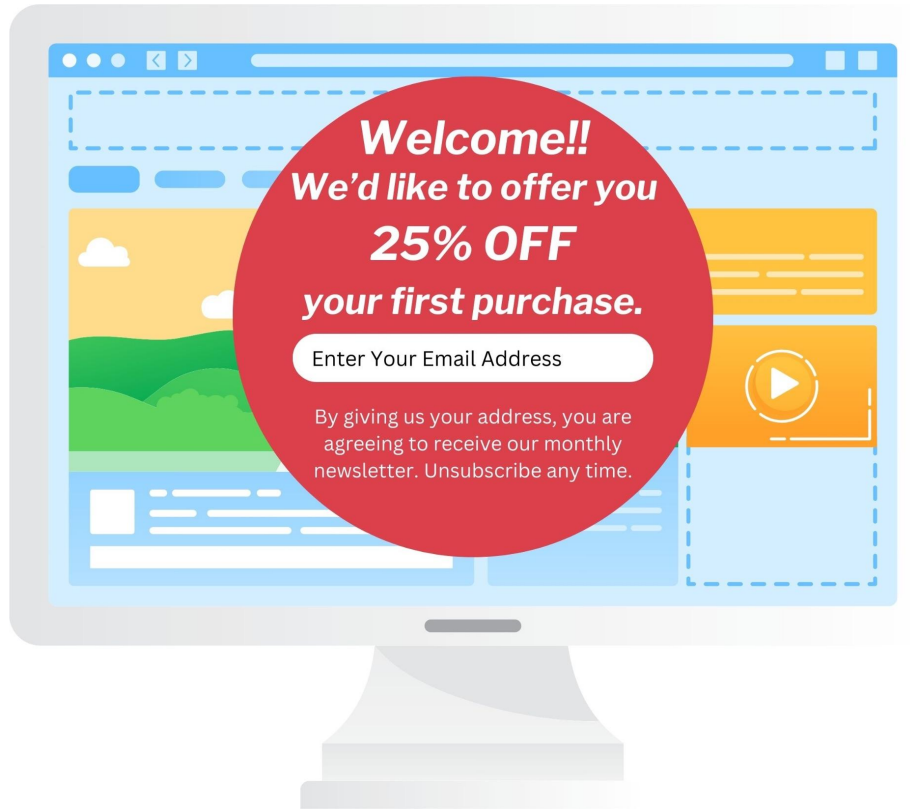


What would you do?

What clues helped you decide what to do?

FOR STUDENT, continued

4. Your mom asks you to find a website where you might be able to buy musical instruments. You see this pop-up on a site you found about instruments.



What would you do?

What clues helped you decide what to do?

FOR STUDENT, continued

5. You're doing some research for a school project about Ancient Egypt when you see a link to a site about snakes. You hover over the word "snakes" with your cursor to preview the URL below.



What would you do?

What clues helped you decide what to do?
