

Kit's Cyber-Detective Challenge: Securing the Digital Den

Learning objective: To understand the importance of secure passwords, recognise potential phishing attempts, and identify strategies to protect personal data online.

Kit the Fox is setting up a secure digital library for his friends, but he needs your help to identify which habits are 'Cyber-Safe' and which are 'Cyber-Risky'. Read each scenario below and decide if it is a secure practice or a potential security threat. If it is a threat, explain why it is dangerous and provide a recommendation for improvement.

Word bank: Phishing · Encryption · Two-factor authentication · Cybersecurity · Personal data · Secure password · Digital footprint

1. Scenario 1: Pip the Caterpillar uses 'Caterpillar123' as the password for every single website he visits. Explain why this is a security risk and suggest a more robust alternative. (2 marks)

2. Scenario 2: Zara receives an unexpected email from an unknown sender claiming she has won a prize, but she must click a link and enter her home address to claim it. Justify why Zara should not click this link. (2 marks)

3. Scenario 3: Nova wants to share her star-gazing photos on a public forum. What pieces of personal data should she ensure are removed from the image or text before posting to protect her privacy? (2 marks)

4. Scenario 4: Compare and contrast a weak password with a 'passphrase'. Why is a longer passphrase generally more secure against hacking attempts? (2 marks)

5. Scenario 5: What might happen if an online platform experiences a data breach and you have reused your password across multiple accounts? (2 marks)

6. Scenario 6: Explain why two-factor authentication (2FA) adds a vital layer of security even if a cyber-criminal manages to discover your password. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Cyber-Shield' for Kit. Inside the shield, illustrate three symbols representing digital safety habits (e.g., a padlock for passwords, a magnifying glass for checking links, and a shield for privacy settings).



Extension challenge: Design a 'Cyber-Safety Poster' for your classroom. Create a catchy acronym for the word 'SECURE' where each letter stands for a rule to follow when using computers or tablets. Write a short paragraph justifying why these rules are essential in the modern digital world.