

Staying Safe in the Digital Jungle

Learning objective: To understand the importance of online safety, privacy, and respectful communication in a digital environment.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Use full sentences where appropriate and provide evidence from the text to justify your opinions.

Kit the fox loves using technology to solve puzzles and connect with friends, but he knows the internet is like a vast, unexplored forest. To stay safe, Kit always follows the 'Golden Digital Rule': never share private information with anyone you do not know in real life. This includes your home address, school name, or passwords. Kit reminds us that when we post photos or comments, we create a 'digital footprint'—a trail that stays online permanently.

Sometimes, people may behave unkindly behind the screen, hiding behind anonymity. If you feel uncomfortable, pressured, or upset by an online message, Kit insists that you should immediately stop communicating, save the evidence, and tell a trusted adult. Being a kind digital citizen means treating others with the same respect you would show face-to-face. Just because you cannot see the person you are messaging does not mean your words lack impact. By keeping your privacy settings high and thinking before you click, you ensure your online adventures remain positive, creative, and secure. Treat the digital world with caution, and it will remain a brilliant place to learn and explore.

Word bank: digital footprint · private information · cyber-bullying · trustworthy · privacy settings · anonymity

1. According to the passage, what specific pieces of information should you never share online? (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. What does Kit mean when he refers to a 'digital footprint'? (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. Why might someone feel more comfortable being unkind online compared to face-to-face? (2 marks) (2 marks)

4. Explain why it is important to tell a trusted adult if you feel pressured by an online message. (2 marks) (2 marks)

5. Do you think the internet is a safe place for children? Justify your answer using examples from the text. (3 marks) (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Digital Shield' that represents the ways you protect your privacy online. Include symbols for passwords, privacy settings, and a 'trusted adult'.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are designing a new social media app for children. Write a 'User Manifesto' listing five rules that every user must follow to ensure the community remains kind, respectful, and safe. Explain why each rule is essential for maintaining a positive online environment.