

Cyber Elementary School

6th Grade Lesson Plan Book

Lesson 6: Protecting Personal Information/Data: Your Digital Treasure Chest

Lesson Title: Protecting Personal Information/Data: Your Digital Treasure Chest

Lesson Number: 6 of 36

Grade/Age: Elementary School (Grade 6)

Subject: Cyber Security and Safety

Duration: 30–40 Minutes

Learning Objectives

- Students will be able to define personal information and give examples of it.
- Students will be able to explain why personal information needs to be protected online.
- Students will be able to identify safe versus unsafe situations for sharing personal information.
- Students will be able to describe at least two habits that help keep personal information private.

Skills

Digital literacy, critical thinking, categorization, personal responsibility, situational judgment.

Warm-Up / Hook (5 minutes)

"Treasure Chest" Sorting Game. Draw a treasure chest on the board. Ask students to brainstorm things that are valuable and should be kept safe and protected (jewelry, money, a favorite toy). Then explain that personal information — like your full name, address, school, birthday, and passwords — is a kind of "digital treasure" too. Just like you wouldn't leave real treasure out in the open for anyone to take, personal information needs to be protected and only shared carefully.

Recommended Teacher Talking Points (Introduction)

- Personal information is any information that identifies you specifically — like your full name, home address, phone number, school name, birthday, or passwords.
 - Some personal information is more sensitive than others, but all of it is worth protecting, because it could be used by a stranger to find you, pretend to be you, or access your accounts.
 - Not every website, app, or person needs to know your personal information — you should only share it with trusted adults' help and permission.
 - Today we'll learn what counts as personal information and how to protect it online.
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Direct Instruction with Recommended Teacher Talking Points

Core Concept:

- Examples of personal information include: full name, home address, phone number, school name, birthday, passwords, and photos that show identifying details.
- Websites, apps, and games sometimes ask for personal information — always check with a parent, guardian, or teacher before typing any of it in.
- Never share personal information with strangers online, even if they seem friendly or say they're a kid too.
- If you're ever unsure whether something is safe to share, pause and ask a trusted adult first.

Increased Learning — 6th Grade Level:

- Introduce the concept of identity theft at a basic level: when someone uses another person's personal information without permission, often to pretend to be them or access their accounts or money.
- Introduce the idea of data breaches: when a company's stored information gets stolen or leaked, potentially exposing personal information that was shared with that company.
- Talking point: "Identity theft is a serious reason personal information needs protecting — once personal details are stolen, they can potentially be misused for a long time. That's part of why we're careful about what we share and with whom, even with companies we trust."

Guided Practice — 6th Grade Skill Activity

(Skill activity to complement the learning objective)

Data Breach News Recap

- In small groups, students read a short simplified summary of a hypothetical company data breach and discuss what personal information might have been exposed and what affected people should do next (e.g., change passwords, watch for suspicious activity).

Independent Practice or Homework Handout — 6th Grade Worksheet

"After the Breach"

- Define identity theft and data breach in your own words.
- Explain two steps someone could take if they learned their information was part of a data breach.
- Scenario: A classmate says it doesn't matter if a website loses your information because "it's just a game account." Write 2–3 sentences responding to that idea.

Closure (5 minutes)

Bring the class back together and ask 2–3 volunteers to share one type of personal information they learned to protect. Reinforce the key takeaway: "Personal information is valuable, like treasure — protect it carefully and only share it with trusted adults' help." Preview that the next lesson will build on this by introducing two-factor authentication as an extra layer of account protection.

Assessment — 6th Grade Quiz

6 questions

1. What is identity theft?
2. What is a data breach?
3. Why is personal information still at risk even if you never share it carelessly yourself?

4. True or False: If a company you trust experiences a data breach, your information could still be exposed.
5. Scenario: You hear that a game you use had a data breach. What steps should you (with an adult's help) consider taking?
6. Short answer: Explain the connection between protecting personal information and preventing identity theft.

Answer Key (Teacher Use) — 6th Grade

1. Identity theft is when someone uses another person's personal information without permission, often to pretend to be them or access their accounts or money.
2. A data breach is when a company's stored information gets stolen or leaked, potentially exposing personal information that was shared with that company.
3. Because personal information given to trusted companies could still be exposed if that company experiences a data breach, even without any mistake by the individual.
4. True.
5. Open-ended — accept steps like changing passwords, enabling two-factor authentication if available, monitoring for suspicious activity, and telling a trusted adult.
6. Open-ended — accept explanations noting that protecting personal information reduces the amount of data available for a thief to steal and misuse, lowering the risk and impact of identity theft.

Teacher Reflection / Notes

- What worked well in this lesson? _____
- Which grade level needed more scaffolding or support? _____
- Did students grasp the "treasure chest" analogy for personal information? _____
- Adjustments for next time: _____