



Staying Safe Online

Essential Question

How do you stay safe when you visit websites?

Estimated time: 45 minutes

Lesson Overview

Students understand that they should stay safe online by choosing websites that are good for them to visit, and avoid sites that are not appropriate for them.

First, students learn about the similarities of staying safe in the real world and when visiting websites. Next, they learn about the website traffic light and complete an activity where they match statements about websites to the correct safety level of the site. Then they play an interactive game and consider how to determine which websites are just right for them.

Standards Alignment –

Common Core:

grade K: W.5, W.7, W.8, W.10, SL.1a, SL.1b, SL.2, SL.3, SL.4, SL.5, SL.6, L.6

grade 1: W.5, W.7, W.8, L.6

grade 2: W.7, W.8, SL.1a, SL.1b, SL.1c, SL.3, SL.6, L.6

NETS•S: 1a, 4a, 4d, 5a-c, 6a, 6b

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to ...

- understand that being safe when they visit websites is similar to staying safe in real life.
- learn to recognize websites that are good for them to visit.
- recognize if they should ask an adult they trust before they visit a particular website.

Key Vocabulary –

safe: free from danger or harm

caution: to be careful

right: something that's appropriate and fitting

Materials and Preparation

- Chalkboard or white board
- A long piece of string or tape
- Red, yellow, and green markers or crayons
- Copy the **Website Traffic Light Student Handout**, one for each student.

Family Resources

- Send home the **Talking Safely Online Family Tip Sheet (Elementary School)**.

introduction

Warm-up (5 minutes)

ASK:

What does it mean to be safe?

Students' answers will vary.

DEFINE the Key Vocabulary term **safe**.

ASK:

When you walk down the street or play in your neighborhood without a trusted adult there, how do you stay safe?

Gather all responses from students, but highlight these points:

- Don't go to places you don't know
- Don't talk to strangers
- Stay out of trouble
- Follow the rules

TELL students that just as they should stay safe in the real world, they should stay safe when they go into the online world (visiting websites). Make parallels between the answers students gave you about their neighborhood and the online world.

EXPLAIN to students that one way they can keep safe online is by using the website traffic light. A regular traffic light tells people who are driving cars when they need to go, slow down, or stop. In the same way, the website traffic light tells people who are visiting websites whether or not it's okay to go somewhere.

teach 1

Introduce the Website Traffic Light (10 minutes)

DRAW a website traffic light on the white board using the illustration from the **Website Traffic Light Student Handout**.

DEFINE the Key Vocabulary term **right**. Explain to students that the website traffic light will help them choose sites that are just right for them.

EXPLAIN to students the meaning of the green, yellow, and red traffic lights. Use the talking points below.

Green – GOOD!

Look for sites that are “green” and bookmark them so you can visit your favorites! (You may have to explain and demonstrate how to bookmark a site.)

A “green” website is:

- A good site for kids your age to visit
- Fun, with things for you to do and see
- Has appropriate words
- Doesn't let you talk to people you don't know

ASK:

*What are some “green” websites you visit?
How do you know they're safe and just right for you?*

Guide students to share websites they visit, exploring how they are “green” sites.

DEFINE the Key Vocabulary term **caution**.

Yellow – CAUTION!

Before you go to a site you think is yellow, get permission from adult you trust.

A “yellow” website is:

- A site you are not sure is right for you
- One that asks for information such as who you are, where you live, your phone number or email address, etc.
- A place where you are allowed to communicate freely with others

ASK:

Have you ever come across a “yellow” site? How did you take caution?

Guide students to name sites they have encountered that they were unsure about visiting, and have them share their experiences.

Red – STOP!

Avoid a site you think is “red.” If you’re unsure, ask a trusted adult.

A “red” website is:

- A site that is not right for you
- A place you might have gone to by accident
- Filled with things that are for older kids or adults

ASK:

Have you ever been to a “red” website you knew was not right for you? How could you tell?

Guide students to share sites they might have visited that were inappropriate for them. Keep in mind they may have visited these sites either deliberately or accidentally. Students may talk about having a “gut feeling” that tells them the site is not appropriate for them. Invite them to share strategies they used to avoid the site, such as clicking the back button, closing the page, or telling an adult about it.

teach 2

Go, Caution, Stop! Use the Website Traffic Light (15 minutes)

DISTRIBUTE the **Website Traffic Light Student Handout**, one per student.

READ ALOUD the handout instructions. Have students work together in pairs or small groups to complete the handout.

INVITE students to share answers to each statement on the handout. The correct answers are:

1. This site is just right for me. (GREEN)
2. I should get permission from an adult I trust. (YELLOW)
3. There are fun things for me to do and see. (GREEN)
4. This site is not right for me. (RED)
5. I’d like to go there, but I should be cautious. (YELLOW)
6. The site has things for older kids or adults, but not for me. (RED)

teach 3

Play the Website Traffic Light Game (10 minutes)

HAVE students line up in a row on one side of the room. Place a string or piece of tape as a line on the floor on the opposite side of the room where you'll stand, parallel to the students' row. You'll be playing a game similar to the popular "Red Light, Green Light" children's game.

INTRODUCE students to the rules of the game:

For each green website, you move forward two steps.

For each yellow site, you move forward one step.

For each red site, you can't move.

If you get an answer wrong (i.e., you move the wrong amount of steps), you must go back to where you stood before and take one step back.

READ ALOUD each of the following statements about pretend websites students might visit. After each statement, students take the amount of steps they think is correct. Reveal the correct answer after each statement, prompting students to explain why something is red, yellow, or green. The students who make it to the line at the front of the room first are the winners.

You went to the games-o-rama website by accident and a stranger asks you your name and age.

RED – no steps

The Wacky Bunny site is funny! Even your grandma would think it's just right.

GREEN – forward two steps

You are searching for pictures of hearts but come across a site that makes you feel uncomfortable.

RED – no steps

A site for your favorite TV show has fun things for kids your age to do.

GREEN – forward two steps

There's a kids sports site you visited that allows people to chat with each other.

YELLOW – forward one step

You're on a game site where a screen pops up and asks for your email address.

YELLOW – forward one step

Your teacher tells you to visit a site where you can learn things about giraffes.

GREEN – forward two steps

REMIND students after the game that just as they stay safe by following traffic lights, they should aim to stay safe online by choosing sites that are just right for them. They should also ask an adult for permission to visit a site they think is yellow, and avoid visiting sites that are red.

closing

Wrap-up (5 minutes)

You can use these questions to assess your students' understanding of the lesson objectives.

ASK:

How is staying safe in your neighborhood and staying safe online similar?

Guide students to explain the similarities. For instance, in both worlds they don't talk to strangers, don't go places they're not familiar with, and stay out of trouble.

What would a "green light" website look like?

Students should recognize that "green" websites are sites that are good for kids their age to visit. They are usually fun to visit, with things for kids to do and see. They have appropriate words, and do not let kids talk to people they don't know.

How would a "yellow light" or "red light" website look like? What should you do if you come across one of these sites?

Emphasize to students that they should always ask an adult they trust if they are unsure whether a site is right. Students should find an adult if they come across sites that: ask for information about who you are, where you live, your phone number, or email address; allow kids to communicate freely with others; have things for older kids or adults.

Extension Activity

In groups, have students create a website traffic light poster. On a large sheet of paper, students draw a traffic light. Within each light, have students write tips to explain what a green, yellow, or red website is. Hang the posters in the classroom and point out all the ways that students can choose "green" sites that are just right for them.

At-Home Activity

With a family member, students find three new "green" sites they can visit. They explain to their family member how these are safe sites that are just right for them. Students can write down the names of those websites and post them by the computer, or bookmark them in their Web browser.

Staying Safe Online

Directions

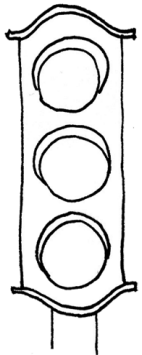
Color the correct light for each statement.

Green = Good

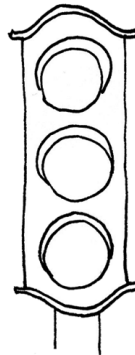
Yellow = Caution



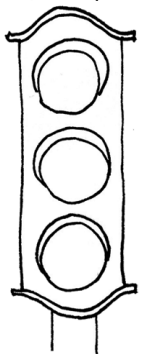
Red = Stop



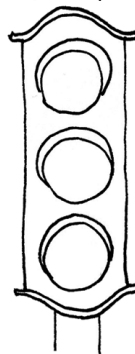
1. This site is just right for me.



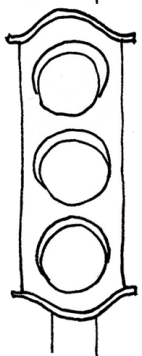
4. This site is not right for me.



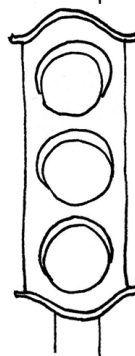
2. I should get permission from an adult I trust.



5. I'd like to go there, but I should be cautious.



3. There are fun things for me to do and see.



6. The site has things for older kids or adults, but not for me.

Use Common Sense!

Bookmark sites that are “green” so you can remember your favorites.

Staying Safe Online

1. Which of these are safe both online and offline?

- a) Talking only to people you know
- b) Staying out of trouble
- c) Following your family's rules
- d) All of the above



2. Which is the “right site” for kids your age?

- a) An online newspaper with hard words
- b) A site with games that your parents say are okay
- c) A site where you can talk to people you have never met



3. You should use caution if you are not sure that a site is right for kids your age, or if a site asks for your private information.

Caution means:

- a) Being careful
- b) Being silly
- c) Being angry
- d) Being happy



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1. Which of these are safe both online and offline?

- a) Talking only to people you know
- b) Staying out of trouble
- c) Following your family's rules
- d) All of the above**



Answer feedback

The correct answer is **d**. Staying safe online is a lot like staying safe offline. You know it is safest to talk only to people you know, to stay out of trouble, and to follow your family's rules.

2. Which is the "right site" for kids your age?



- a) An online newspaper with hard words
- b) A site with games that your parents say are okay**
- c) A site where you can talk to people you have never met

Answer feedback

The correct answer is **b**. Some subjects are better for older people, like on site "a". Sites where you can talk to strangers, like site "c," are not safe for kids.

3. You should use caution if you are not sure that a site is right for kids your age, or if a site asks for your private information. Caution means:

- a) Being careful**
- b) Being silly
- c) Being angry
- d) Being happy



Answer feedback

The correct answer is **a**. Caution means being careful.