Name _____   Date _____

Civics 4 Kids!
Online Safety and Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is a form of bullying that involves the use of electronic devices such as cell phones, computers, and tablets. Cyberbullying can occur through text messages, apps, social media platforms, online forums, and websites where people can view, participate in, or share content. Cyberbullying is defined as sending, publishing, or spreading negative, harmful, or false information about another person.

Important to Know:

- Sending mean messages, posts, or pictures can quickly go to many people, even strangers, and it's almost impossible to take them back once they're sent or shared.

- Sometimes bullies don't understand how much they hurt others because cyberbullying happens online, and they can hide their identity, making it easier for them to keep doing it.

- When people 'like' hurtful posts, send messages, or share them with others, they are part of the problem too.

The most common places where cyberbullying occurs:

- Social media, such as TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, and Facebook

- Text messaging and messaging apps on mobile or tablet devices, including instant messaging, direct messaging, and online chats

- Online forum and chat rooms

- Gaming message systems like on Playstation or Xbox

- Email

Protect your privacy online:

1 Think before you click!

2 Be careful about what you share online because it might not be private.

3 Never send photos or give information about yourself like your name, school, or where you live without asking your parents first.
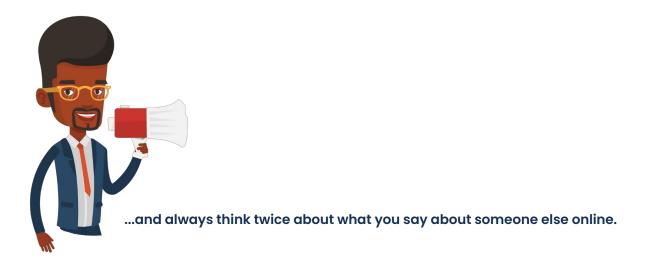
4 Stick to friends you know in real-life and ask your parents before adding more.

5 Keep your accounts safe with strong passwords.

6 Always remember to log out of your accounts when using public computers.

...and always think twice about what you say about someone else online.

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Cyberbullying can reach a victim at any time and from any place. Read the scenarios below and try to figure out if it's a cyberbullying situation.

Situation 1:
Receiving mean and hurtful text messages. **Cyberbullying | Not Cyberbullying**

Situation 2:
Tina sends you a selfie and you decide to share it on social media (i.e., Instagram) without her permission. The photo gets shared around the internet and people are making fun of Tina. **Cyberbullying | Not Cyberbullying**

Situation 3:
Three of your friends create a group chat on social media, but you find out that you're not invited in the group chat. **Cyberbullying | Not Cyberbullying**

Discussion Points:

• It's important to know about cyberbullying because…

• Online privacy can be protected by…

Answer Key

Cyberbullying

It is okay if the child does not know the answers, and you can help them by talking through the answers below.

Situation 1: **Cyberbullying**

Receiving mean and hurtful text messages is considered cyberbullying. Text messaging and messaging apps on mobile or tablet devices, including instant messaging, direct messaging, and online chats, are one of the most common places where cyberbullying happens.

Situation 2: **Cyberbullying**

Tina sends you a selfie and you decide to share it on social media (i.e., Instagram) without her permission. The photo gets shared around the internet and people are making fun of Tina. This scenario is considered cyberbullying. Images can be easily spread to a lot of people, including strangers, and are difficult or impossible to remove once sent. By 'liking' a post, or forwarding it, people are contributing to the issue.

Situation 3: **Not Cyberbullying**

Three of your friends create a group chat on social media, but you find out that you're not invited in the group chat. This is not considered cyberbullying. If they start sending you mean messages, that would be cyberbullying.

Discussion Points:

It's important to know about cyberbullying because…

Answers will vary but may include protecting yourself and your friends, preventing cyberbullying from happening, and stopping or reporting cyberbullying. If you or someone you know is experiencing cyberbullying, you can tell your parents/ guardians, your teacher or principal, or another trusted adult.

Online privacy can be protected by…

Answers will vary but may include keeping in mind that what you post might not be private, knowing your friends and who you interact with on the internet, using strong passwords to protect privacy, and logging out of your accounts on public computers.