



4th Grade Media Literacy Lesson

Standards:

RI.4.7 W.4.6 SL.4.2
RI.4.8 W.4.8

Duration:

45 minutes

Objectives

The students will be able to...

1. Define digital citizenship and media literacy in age-appropriate terms.
2. Identify safe and respectful online behaviors.
3. Recognize how to think critically about media messages (ads, videos, posts).
4. Understand the importance of protecting personal information online.

Lesson Steps

1. Ask: "Who here has ever used the internet? What do you use it for?"
2. Lead a short discussion about the different ways we use technology.
3. Introduce the term Digital Citizenship: Being a good, safe, and respectful person when using technology.
4. Introduce Media Literacy: Understanding what we see, read, and hear online—and knowing how to tell if it's real or fake.
5. Watch "Pause & Think Online" video by Common Sense Media. Discuss afterward: What does it mean to "pause and think" before posting or sharing? Why is it important to keep personal information private?
a. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_duZ-1LApq (2 minutes)
6. Divide students into small groups and give each group a scenario card (e.g., "You get a message from someone you don't know," "You see a funny video—should you share it?"). This could also be done as a class discussion instead of a small group activity.
7. Groups discuss and decide: What's the best choice? Why?
8. Each group shares their scenario and solution with the class.
9. Pass out Media Literacy worksheets.
10. Students complete the worksheet.
11. Go over answers with the class.
12. Students complete the Exit Ticket.

Assessment

- Participation in discussions and group activity
- Accuracy in sorting media examples and responses on Exit Tickets

Materials

- Chart paper or whiteboard
- Markers
- Projector or smartboard
- "Pause & Think" video
- Digital Decision scenario cards
- Media Literacy worksheet
- Exit Ticket

MEDIA LITERACY WORKSHEET	
Name: _____ Date: _____	
Directions: At the examples of media below, for each one, decide if it is something to be informative and accurate, or if it's something you should question. Make an X or check in the correct column.	
Media Example	Trustworthy / Informative
A commercial for a new toy	
An educational video from a museum	
A news story shared by a classmate	
A video on YouTube with no author listed	
An article from National Geographic Kids	
A pop-up ad on a game website	
A blog post about a movie from a fan	
A website that ends in .gov with facts about animals	
An Instagram post saying a celebrity did something heartwarming	
A review of a video game from a professional magazine	
Created by Author David Gorman & Teacher Kelly Wintemute - www.davidwritesbooks.com	

MEDIA LITERACY EXIT TICKET	
Name: _____ Date: _____	
1. Circle one: Which of the following is MOST likely to be trustworthy? a. A pop-up ad on a gaming site b. A government (.gov) website c. A post on social media d. A friend's opinion	
2. True or False: If you don't know who created a video, you should be cautious about trusting it. a. True b. False	
3. Why is it important to question what you see or read online?	
Name: _____ Date: _____	
1. Circle one: Which of the following is MOST likely to be trustworthy? a. A pop-up ad on a gaming site b. A government (.gov) website c. A post on social media d. A friend's opinion	
2. True or False: If you don't know who created a video, you should be cautious about trusting it. a. True b. False	
3. Why is it important to question what you see or read online?	

SCENARIO 1

You see a video on social media that says cats can fly. It looks real but seems strange.

QUESTION

Should you believe it right away?
What should you do?

SCENARIO 2

A website is asking for your name, address, and school to “win a prize.”

QUESTION

Is it okay to share this information?
Why or why not?

SCENARIO 3

Your friend shares a picture and says, “This is real!” but it looks like it might be edited.

QUESTION

What can you do to check if it's true?

SCENARIO 4

You watch a YouTuber talk about a new toy and say it's “the best ever.” Then you see they are being paid to talk about it.

QUESTION

How might that change what you think about the video?

SCENARIO 5

You're playing a game online, and an ad pops up that says "Click here! You're a winner!"

QUESTION

Should you click on it? What should you do?

SCENARIO 6

A classmate posts something unkind about someone else online.

QUESTION

What's a respectful way to respond or not respond at all?

SCENARIO 7

You find a website with cool facts for your project, but there are spelling mistakes and no author listed.

QUESTION

Is this a reliable source?
What could you do next?

SCENARIO 8

You're doing a school project and find a video that seems helpful, but it's full of jokes and the person never says where they got their facts.

QUESTION

Should you use this video for your project?
What could you do to find better information?

Name: _____

Date: _____

MEDIA LITERACY WORKSHEET

Directions:

Look at the examples of media below. For each one, decide: Is something you can usually trust to be informative and accurate? Or is it something you should question and be cautious about? Make an X or check in the correct column.

Media Example	Trusted / Informative	Question It / Be Cautious
A commercial for a new toy		
An educational video from a museum		
A news story shared by a classmate		
A video on YouTube with no author listed		
An article from National Geographic Kids		
A pop-up ad on a game website		
A blog post about a movie from a fan		
A website that ends in .gov with facts about animals		
An Instagram post saying a celebrity did something surprising		
A review of a video game from a professional magazine		

MEDIA LITERACY WORKSHEET

KEY

Directions:

Look at the examples of media below. For each one, decide: Is something you can usually trust to be informative and accurate? Or is it something you should question and be cautious about? Make an X or check in the correct column.

Media Example	Trusted / Informative	Question It / Be Cautious
A commercial for a new toy		Ads are made to sell, not inform. Often leave out important details.
An educational video from a museum	Museums are credible educational sources.	
A news story shared by a classmate		You need to check the original source. Your classmate may not have verified the info.
A video on YouTube with no author listed		If there's no clear source, you can't be sure it's reliable.
An article from National Geographic Kids	This is a reputable source known for fact-checking.	
A pop-up ad on a game website		Pop-up ads are rarely reliable and often misleading.
A blog post about a movie from a fan		Personal blogs may contain opinions, not facts.

MEDIA LITERACY WORKSHEET

KEY, CONT'D

Directions:

Look at the examples of media below. For each one, decide: Is something you can usually trust to be informative and accurate? Or is it something you should question and be cautious about? Make an X or check in the correct column.

Media Example	Trusted / Informative	Question It / Be Cautious
A website that ends in .gov with facts about animals	Government (.gov) sites are usually fact-checked and trustworthy.	
An Instagram post saying a celebrity did something surprising		Social media posts are not fact-checked. Verify with news sources.
A review of a video game from a professional magazine	Professional magazines usually review based on research and standards.	

Name: _____

Date: _____

MEDIA LITERACY EXIT TICKET

1. **Circle one:** Which of the following is MOST likely to be trustworthy?

- a. A pop-up ad on a gaming site
- b. A government (.gov) website
- c. A post on social media
- d. A friend's opinion

2. **True or False:** If you don't know who created a video, you should be cautious about trusting it.

- a. True
- b. False

3. **Why is it important to question what you see or read online?**

Name: _____

Date: _____

MEDIA LITERACY EXIT TICKET

1. **Circle one:** Which of the following is MOST likely to be trustworthy?

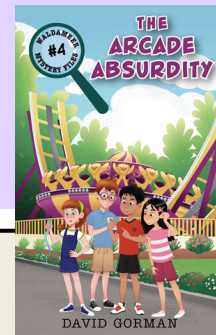
- a. A pop-up ad on a gaming site
- b. A government (.gov) website
- c. A post on social media
- d. A friend's opinion

2. **True or False:** If you don't know who created a video, you should be cautious about trusting it.

- a. True
- b. False

3. **Why is it important to question what you see or read online?**

Continue the Learning with an Exciting Novel About Media Literacy & Critical Thinking!



Ch.	<i>The Arcade Absurdity</i> Discussion Questions
2	Omar says he learned about the aliens at Waldameer on Shockr, a social media app. Is social media a trustworthy source of information? Why or why not?
2	How does Julia describe Shockr? Does its purpose seem more to educate or entertain? Do you think that it is fact-checked?
3	Lux says he can prove he has alien superpowers by playing perfect games of Skee-ball. Is he right? Do his arcade skills prove his story about aliens?
3	Lux says that the Mega Vortex ride is actually an alien spaceship. What could the detectives do to test his claim?
6	The detectives discover Lux is lying about the Mega Vortex being an alien spaceship. Were you surprised?
8	How is using Shockr like eating candy? How is learning facts like eating vegetables?
8	Semira and Luciana discover that some Shockr users post shocking content that's not true. What is their motivation? Do you think it's right?
12-13	What other parts of Lux's alien rumor turn out to be false?
16	Now the detectives can easily tell Lux is fake, along with his Shockr videos. How does being "internet-smart" (or media literate) change the way you engage with things online?
17	Lux started the alien rumor on Shockr to make money. When you see advertisements or sponsored posts on social media, can you trust the information as fact?
End	What lesson(s) about media literacy did you learn from <i>The Arcade Absurdity</i> ?