Cybersecurity and Online Safety

ISTE Standard: 7: Global Collaborator (7a) – Students will use digital tools to communicate and work collaboratively, but also understand the importance of **online safety** and **protecting personal information**.

A. GRADE LEVEL: 7th-8th
B. SUBJECT: Cybersecurity and Online Safety
C. DATE: [Insert Date]
D. DURATION: 1 day (50 minutes)
E. LESSON FOCUS: Internet safety, protecting privacy, and avoiding online dangers such as phishing and cyberbullying.
F. MATERIALS:
- Computers or tablets with internet access
- Projector
- Internet Safety handouts or slides
- Cybersecurity Quiz (digital or printed)
- Online Safety Checklist (handout or slides)

G. LESSON OBJECTIVES:
- Understand the importance of online safety and digital citizenship.
- Identify and avoid common online threats (e.g., phishing, scams, and cyberbullying).
- Learn how to protect personal information and online privacy.
- Demonstrate safe online behaviors by practicing digital security techniques.

H. PROCEDURES:
1. INTRODUCTION (10 minutes)
- Begin by asking students what they know about **online safety** and **cybersecurity**.
- Discuss the importance of protecting personal information and the risks associated with sharing private details online.
- Show a short video or a few slides that explain basic online safety concepts like strong passwords, avoiding sharing personal information, and recognizing phishing attempts.
- Provide real-life examples of online threats like phishing emails or social media scams.

2. EXPERIMENT/ACTIVITY (25 minutes)
- **Activity 1: Identifying Phishing Emails**
    - Show students a sample phishing email and ask them to identify what makes it suspicious (e.g., strange email address, urgent language, unfamiliar links).
    - Have students review several emails (printed or on-screen) and discuss which ones seem safe and which ones might be phishing attempts.
- **Activity 2: Protecting Privacy on Social Media**
    - Students will be given a scenario (e.g., creating a social media profile) and asked to discuss what personal information they should avoid sharing and why.
    - Lead a discussion on the importance of setting strong privacy settings and making accounts private on social media platforms.

3. OBSERVATION (5 minutes)
- Ask students what they learned during the activities and how they can apply these lessons in their own online habits.

- Monitor their responses to ensure that they are identifying online threats correctly and applying privacy settings where appropriate.

4. GENERALIZATION (5 minutes)
- Summarize the key concepts from the lesson:
  - **Safe online behaviors**: Don't share personal information, create strong passwords, and be cautious when interacting with unfamiliar sources.
  - **Phishing**: Recognizing suspicious emails and avoiding clicking on links from unknown sources.
  - **Privacy protection**: Using privacy settings, and limiting the personal information shared online.
- Emphasize that these practices will help them protect their digital lives and avoid falling victim to cyber threats.

5. ASSESSMENT (5 minutes)
- Distribute the **Cybersecurity Quiz** to evaluate students' understanding of key concepts (e.g., what phishing is, how to create a secure password, what privacy settings to use).
- Collect quizzes and review the results to check for comprehension.

Note 1: Safety
- Remind students that while the internet can be a fun and educational space, it's important to stay aware of online threats. Advise them to always talk to a trusted adult if they encounter something online that makes them feel uncomfortable or if they suspect they've been the target of a scam or phishing attempt.

Note 2: Accommodation of ELL, ESE, etc.
- For English Language Learners (ELLs), provide a glossary of key terms such as "phishing," "password," and "privacy." Consider using visual aids or videos to help convey information.
- For Exceptional Student Education (ESE) students, provide additional time to complete activities and quizzes. Use step-by-step instructions and offer one-on-one support if needed.

Reflection and Homework
- Ask students to write a short reflection on what they learned about cybersecurity and how they will practice online safety in their daily internet use.
- For homework, students can create a list of **10 online safety tips** that they can use to keep their personal information secure when browsing the internet.