

Digital Defenders: Cybersecurity for K-12 Students

Course Syllabus

This course empowers young learners to become safe, smart, and confident digital citizens—teaching them how to protect themselves and their devices in the digital realm. Through interactive lessons and engaging activities, students will gain essential cybersecurity knowledge and skills for today's digital world.

Learning Objectives

This course is designed for K-12 students in all grade levels. They will have an opportunity at the end of this course to explore a variety of virtual worlds in Minecraft Education and apply their understanding of cybersecurity fundamentals.

In this course, students will:

- Learn strategies for identifying and responding to common cyber threats;
- Understand basic cybersecurity measures to protect their data and devices;
- Learn how to get help with cybersecurity problems; and
- Apply their knowledge of cybersecurity in one or more Minecraft Education worlds.



Course Format

This self-paced course consists of four lessons. It is designed to take approximately 30-45 minutes to complete, with an additional 1.5 to 5 hours offered as an extension to apply what is learned in Minecraft Education worlds.

Course Overview

Lesson 1: Understanding the Importance of Cybersecurity

In this lesson, K-12 students are introduced to cybersecurity and its importance to their own lives. Through engaging visuals and relatable stories, they'll gain insight into the current cybersecurity landscape. They'll step into the shoes of cybersecurity experts through role-playing, assess their own knowledge, and set personal goals for the course ahead.

- What is Cybersecurity?
- Why is Cybersecurity Important to Me?

Lesson 2: Protecting Yourself

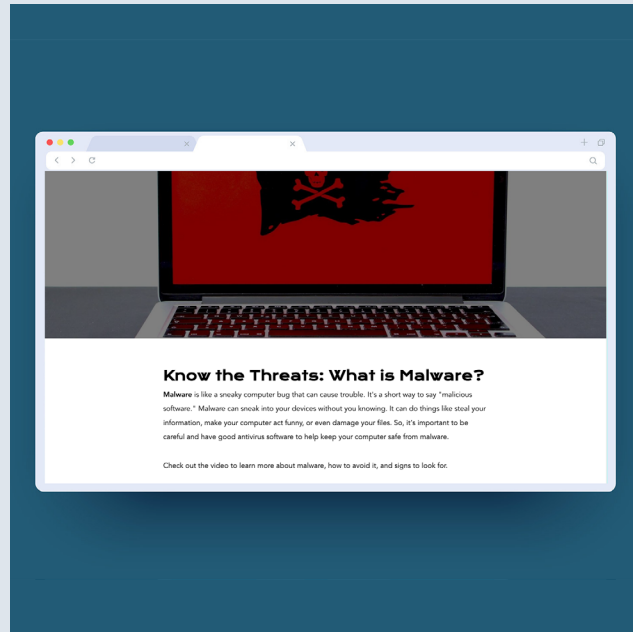
In this lesson, students dig deeper into the world of cybersecurity, focusing on safeguarding their own personal information. They'll learn about the importance of strong passwords and multi-factor authentication (MFA), along with practical steps to create and reset passwords. Students will also become savvy at recognizing phishing attempts and understanding the dos and don'ts of online safety.

- Know the Threats: What is Phishing?
- What Can You Do to Protect Your Information?

Lesson 3: Protecting Your Devices

In this lesson, students learn how to shield their devices and technology systems from digital threats. They'll identify and combat common security risks like malware and ransomware, ensuring their devices are always up to date and backed up. Plus, they'll learn what to do if cyber trouble strikes.

- Know the Threats: What is Malware?
- Know the Threats: What is Ransomware?
- What Can You Do to Protect Your Devices?



Lesson 4: Explore to Know More

In this lesson, students will take the knowledge they've gained throughout the course and apply it through play in different virtual Minecraft Education worlds. They'll test their knowledge of cybersecurity awareness and safety to determine which world(s) best meets their individual cybersecurity needs.

- Review Your Cyber Smarts
- Bringing it All Together