

Safety.Net

Teachers' Notes

INTRODUCTION

One of the most pressing issues confronting parents, today, is the safe use of the internet by their children. **Safety.Net** is a theatre-based presentation which attempts to de-mystify the internet, generally, enlighten students as to its origins and the benefits of its uses.

Armed with this knowledge, the second part of the show exposes some of the dangers to be aware of, and provides a range of practical tips to help protect children from become victims. A quiz at the end of the performance re-caps on the lessons learnt.

A HISTORY OF HUMAN COMMUNICATION

The internet is the result of thousands of years in the development of human-to-human communication, and the first part of the show provides an entertaining pracie of our methods of communication, so far.

From initial physical signals, humans later developed the ability to draw pictorial symbols. After **speech** developed, the symbols needed to reflect language and people began to **read and write**. The advent of **printing** presses spread written communications to a much wider audience. Humans could now communicate without actually being face-to-face.

Much later, the invention of the **telephone** meant that messages could be delivered instantly to anywhere in the world, and **facsimile** technology enabled written materials to move at the same speed. **Television** added a visual dimension to one-way communications, but it was the **internet** that made instant two-way audio-visual and written communication standard in homes worldwide.

WHAT IS THE INTERNET AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

The internet is the system and infrastructure which enables a computer in one place to share information, pictures, sounds, etc., with a computer in another place. In other words, it is a **network** of computers.

In the next section of the show, students meet the inventors of the internet, who describe, (without getting to technical), how they actually did it.

EMAIL

Email is a messaging system that uses the internet to deliver information instantly to a particular internet address. In song, students are shown how this process takes place.

SURFING & SEARCHING THE WORLD WIDE WEB

The internet is not the same thing as the **World Wide Web**. Whilst the internet is the structure which makes the Web possible, the World Wide Web is the name given to the collection of the world's web sites that it is possible to visit *using* the internet. This is why website addresses begin with **www**. Email is not the World Wide Web either, but another use for the internet.

An interactive game shows students how to **surf** the World Wide Web, and use a **search engine** to find what you want and avoid arriving at unwanted websites. It also suggests creating **bookmarks** of the sites you may wish to return to.

INTERNET SAFETY

The final section of the performance takes the form of a detective drama, as Sam Cyber attempts to get to the bottom of the online woes encountered by Kelly Bytes. Along the way, they develop a list of tips, to assist students in staying safe on the internet.

SAFETY TIPS

1. Use the internet in a public area of the home, not the bedroom/office.
2. Don't open emails/messages/chats from people you don't know.
3. Only open an attachment if you are sure of what it contains.
4. If the computer behaves strangely, turn it off and report to an adult.
5. Be careful who you give your name, address, phone number, and other personal details to, especially on social networking sites and chats.
6. Don't tell anyone except your parent/guardian your password/s.
7. Never agree to meet someone you have only spoken to on the internet.
8. Ask your parent/guardian to bookmark sites you are allowed to go to, and to use website filtering controls or software.

CONCLUSION

A fun quiz re-caps the entire show, to ensure maximum retention. Students leave armed with a stronger understanding of the internet, how to gain the greatest benefit from its use, and how to stay safe.

Sites used to research this show include;

www.cybersmart.gov.au

www.boutell.com

www.fbi.gov/kids

www.google.com/intl/en/landing/familysafety/

ENJOY THE SHOW!

TIE GPO Box 1495 Canberra ACT 2601 Ph 1300 851055 Fx 02 61006198 E-mail: nick@tieshows.com