

Social Engineering Tactics and Preventions

TOPIC: SOCIAL ENGINEERING

GRADE: 9-12

LESSON DURATION: 45 MINUTES (OR LONGER)

SOFT SKILLS: COMMUNICATION, COLLABORATION; CRITICAL THINKING; RESEARCH

Introduction:

- Social engineering is one of the most common cyber threats. Understanding current tactics as well as practicing safe online skills is the key to not falling victim. Although the tactics used by social engineers constantly change, prevention measures and understanding the existence of social engineering will help to prevent students from being victims.

Materials:

- [Teacher reading, if not familiar with terminology](#)
- [Glossary of cybersecurity terms created by the National Cyber Security Centre](#) (Teacher use)
- [Student hand-out](#)
- Optional materials: phishing email; paper/pencil/markers; materials for a skit
- Internet access

Activities:

1. This activity can be done as an activity on current events, safety, or life skills.
2. Students should be placed in a small group (2-3 students). Each student should receive a copy of the student worksheet. Internet access will be needed to complete.
3. Allow students to work together to complete the worksheet. After all students are done, go through the definitions of each term.
4. For extended practice and to make the lesson more interactive, have students complete follow-up activities. A few ideas are include below.
 - A. In their small groups, have each group prepare a skit to display someone trying to blag information from someone or to try to get into a building. Make it competitive and award a prize for the most creative skit.
 - B. Using paper/pencil or Word/Google Docs have students attempt to pharm a well-known website. Display the visuals and allow other students to figure out how they would tell that it was a fake website.
 - C. Print off a phishing email and give one copy to each group. Have them identify the red flags contained in the email. (This requires the teacher to either google or save a phishing email attempt)
 - I. [Example of phishing email](#)

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