Lesson: How do I find trustworthy sources?

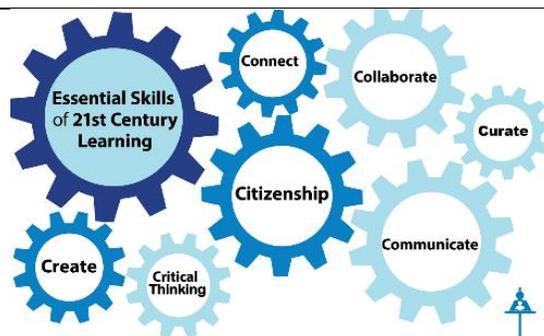Curriculum Areas: ELA – Reading, Research Skills

Curricular Outcome(s):
CR1.2   CR4.4   CR6.8   CR8.7
CR2.2   CR5.2   CR7.4   CR8.8
CR3.2   CR6.4   CR8.4
CR4.3   CR6.7   CR8.6

Resources /Materials:
- Tablets or Computers
- Test Before You Trust Student Handout
- Identifying High-Quality Sites Assessment Sheet

Websites and Digital Resources &Sources:
http://www.schrockguide.net/critical-evaluation.html
http://allaboutexplorers.com/webquest/teacher/
https://www.commonsensemedia.org/educators/lesson/identifying-high-quality-sites-6-8

21st Century Essential Skills:
- Critical Thinking
- Curate
- Communicate

Digital Citizenship Concepts and Skills: RESPECT, EDUCATE, PROTECT
- RESPECT
- EDUCATE

Digital Citizenship Essential Questions:
- Should technology be used to access information to learn new concepts?
- How can students use digital technologies to best take advantage of the educational opportunities available to them?

Essential Knowledge - See Digital Fluency Continuum
- Knowledge: What will students understand?
  o Learning in a digital society includes searching and accessing information as well as processing skills (information literacy).
  o There are various ways of organizing information and we need to learn skills to find the information we are looking for.
  o I cannot believe everything I find online.
  o Sometimes there is content online that may make me feel uncomfortable and that I should close it and tell and adult.
  o Information may vary between websites because search engines have different features and ways of searching.
  o Both finding and evaluating information is necessary.
- Skills: What will students be able to do?
  o Use a variety of strategies to find information and determine the accuracy and reliability of the information.
  o Students successfully use keywords to search as well as a variety of search strategies.

Essential Question:
How do I evaluate the quality of websites?
How do I know which websites I can trust? How do I know content is accurate?
Which criteria should I use to evaluate information and how trustworthy it is?

Before:
Show the video on House Hippos (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLG2JP0P5J), stop the video before the end. Ask students if they have ever seen a house hippo. Really get them to buy into the discussion by acting like this was the first time you have ever seen a house hippo. After discussion, play the rest of the video and discuss reactions. This seemed like a really legitimate commercial, but it isn't.

During:
Follow the lessons on All About Explorers. There are lessons

This lesson was developed as part of a project begun in Centennial School District to teach Internet literacy skills to fifth grade students. The project began with the creation of this web site, which contains fictional biographies of world explorers, and a series of lessons designed to introduce students to the idea that the Internet is a less reliable source of information than print sources, and while there is an abundance of information available at our fingertips, researchers need to think critically about the facts found there.

This WebQuest is designed as a culminating activity for students to apply the beginning research and critical thinking skills they learned in other lessons to a real-world project.
from: http://allaboutexplorers.com/webquest/teacher/
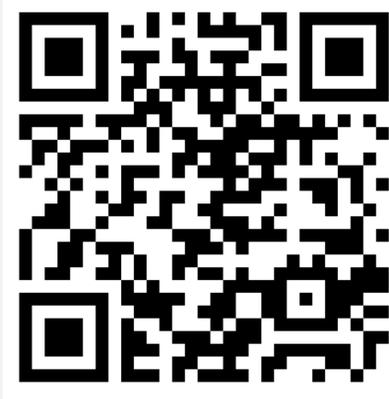
Discuss with students the key ideas:
- Not everything you fin online is true
- It is important to check your information with other sources to ensure it is accurate
- Use common sense
- Evaluate the websites you visit before believing everything you read
- Anyone can be an author on the internet

As a class, follow the Test Before You Trust steps with two websites. The first website is a fictional website on DMHO (http://www.dhmo.org/), which is actually water. Then follow the same process with a trustworthy site (such as an online database) for a topic that you are currently studying.

There are a variety of other misleading websites found here: http://eduscapes.com/tap/topic32.htm

Test Before You Trust from Common Sense Media
(https://www.commonsensemedia.org/educators/lesson/identifying-high-quality-sites-6-8)
EXPLAIN to students that, while there are generally fewer rules about what can and can't be published on the Internet, there are a growing number of sites that have high standards for publishing information. Therefore, though it is important to use a critical eye when looking at websites, you shouldn't automatically assume that online information is incorrect or of lesser quality than information in books or newspapers.

DEFINE the Key Vocabulary terms **evaluate** and **criteria**.

EXPLAIN to students that it's important to know how to evaluate information online to make sure that it's trustworthy. Tell them that they are going to learn some criteria for evaluating high-quality websites, which is especially helpful for research projects.

DIVIDE students into pairs. If your class has access to a limited number of computers, you may assign two or more pairs to work at the same computer and look at the same website; each pair should complete its own handout.

DISTRIBUTE the Test Before You Trust Student Handout, one for each student. Refer to the Test Before You Trust Student Handout – Teacher Version for instructions on how to guide students through this part of the lesson. Students will evaluate assigned websites based on a 30-point test, then score their sites and discuss the results.

After:
Students can complete the Identifying High-Quality Sites Assessment Sheet for further assessment.

For more information on evaluating resources:
http://www.schrockguide.net/uploads/3/9/2/2/392267/5ws.pdf

Assessment:
Students will able to evaluate websites and find trustworthy criteria. Students will become critical viewers of information they find.

Identifying High-Quality Sites Assessment Sheet