

Scams, Tricks & Pop-Ups (Don't Get Fooled)

40 minutes

Cyber Safety

WHAT THIS LESSON DOES

Discover how to spot sneaky pop-ups and scams in games like Roblox and Fortnite. Learn what they look like, why scammers target kids, and simple safety steps to stay protected. Through interactive challenges and mini-activities, become a scam-spotting champion who closes tricks without getting fooled.

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO

- Recognise common online scams, pop-ups, and tricks targeting children in games and apps.
- Understand scammers' tactics, such as fake promises, urgency, and impersonation, to exploit excitement.
- Apply practical safety strategies, including closing pop-ups and avoiding suspicious clicks.
- Develop critical thinking skills to evaluate online messages and identify potential threats.
- Build confidence in reporting suspicious activity to trusted adults and using game safety features.

BEFORE THE LESSON

- Devices for each pupil or pair, with the lesson page open and tested. The Pop-Up Simulation and Spot-the-Trick interactives need working sound and click response.
- Check the school filter is not blocking any part of the lesson page before pupils sit down.
- Have your own example of closing a pop-up with the X ready to show on the board, so pupils see the safe move rather than just hearing it.

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HOW THE LESSON RUNS

Introduction

Pop Ups Explained

Sneaky Tricks in Games

How Scammers Trick You

Pop-Up Simulation Activity

Spot-the-Trick Challenge

3 Golden Rules

What to Do Next

Conclusion

TEACHING MOVES

- 1. Introduction. Frame scammers as tricky foxes after game goodies, then ask for a show of hands: who has ever seen a Free Robux or You won! message pop up. Use their answers as the hook.
- 2. Pop Ups Explained. Stress the one key idea: you almost never need to click a pop-up to keep playing. Point to the X and say the safest move is to close it, not read it.
- 3. Sneaky Tricks in Games. Name the games pupils actually play and ask them to describe a trick they have seen. Draw out that a real friend or admin never needs their password.
- 4. How Scammers Trick You. Teach the feeling as the clue: if a message makes you feel rushed or too excited, that is the warning sign. Say it out loud so they can spot it themselves.
- 5. Pop-Up Simulation Activity. Let pupils click through the safe-or-scam pop-ups and read the feedback. Circulate and ask why they chose scam, not just whether they were right.
- 6. Spot-the-Trick Challenge. Pupils match each message to a trick type from the dropdown. After, ask a few to say the trick name aloud so the four categories stick.
- 7. 3 Golden Rules. Say the three rules together as a chant. Repeat the core line: scammers want you to rush, your job is to slow down.
- 8. What to Do Next. Walk through STOP, CLOSE, BLOCK, TELL as a fixed order. Emphasise that telling a trusted adult is never getting in trouble, it is the smart final step.
- 9. Conclusion. Recap the three rules quickly, then set the go-home task: share one rule with a family member. Ask who they will tell.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

- Pupils believe a giveaway or free item must be real because it appeared in a game they trust. Return to the too good to be true rule: real prizes are not surprises that pop up. Ask them to name who would actually be giving away a million Robux and why.
- Pupils think an in-game message from an admin or a friend is safe just because of who it claims to be. Make clear that anyone can claim to be an admin or a friend online. State the fixed rule: no real admin or friend ever asks for your password.
- Pupils worry that telling an adult means they did something wrong or will lose their game. Reframe telling as the hero move in the power plan. Praise spotting and reporting, not just avoiding, so pupils know it is safe to speak up.

DIFFERENTIATION

- Emerging: Sit beside them for the first pop-up in the simulation and think aloud together before they choose safe or scam. Give them just one Golden Rule to hold onto: don't click surprises, close the X.
- Developing: Have them read the feedback on each interactive aloud and say why the answer is right, not just click through. Pair them with a partner for the Spot-the-Trick Challenge so they justify each trick type before locking it in.
- Proficient: Ask them to invent their own fake pop-up message and challenge a partner to name the trick type. Have them explain the full STOP-CLOSE-BLOCK-TELL plan back to you in their own words.