Name: _____   **Date:** _____

Answer Key: Outsmart the Botnets: A 3rd Grade Cybersecurity Challenge

Design defensive strategies and analyze 10 complex digital scenarios to protect a school's fictional mainframe from simulated cyber threats.

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1. You are building a 'Digital Fortress' for your tablet. Which of these is the strongest 'Secret Key' (password) to keep out high-tech intruders?

Answer: C) Blue@Sky9#92

> Advanced security requires complexity; using uppercase, lowercase, numbers, and symbols like '@' and '#' makes it much harder for computer programs to guess the password.

2. When a stranger online asks for your 'geotags' or your physical home address, they are trying to find your _____ location.

Answer: B) Precise

> Precise location data is dangerous if shared with strangers because it tells them exactly where you are in the physical world, not just the digital one.

3. If a pop-up window says your computer has a virus and tells you to click a button to 'Fix Now,' the safest response is to click the button immediately.

Answer: B) False

> Fake virus alerts are a common tactic called 'scareware' used to trick people into downloading actual malware; you should always ask an adult and never click the link.

4. You find a mysterious USB drive decorated with cool stickers in the school library. What is the most responsible action to take?

Answer: B) Give it to a teacher without plugging it in

> Plugging in unknown hardware is a major security risk because it could contain hidden software designed to damage the computer or steal data the moment it's connected.

5. Digital footprints are permanent. If you post a photo today, it creates a _____ record that can be seen by others many years from now.

Answer: B) Lasting

Information shared online is rarely ever truly deleted; it forms a lasting record that follows you throughout your life.

6. A website with 'https://' and a small padlock icon in the address bar is always 100% safe and you can trust everything on it.

Answer: B) False

The padlock means the connection is encrypted (private), but it doesn't mean the people running the website are honest. Even a secure connection can lead to a scam site.

7. While playing an online game, someone offers to give you 'Free Golden Coins' if you just share your parent's email password. This is an example of:

Answer: B) Social engineering

Social engineering is when people use tricks or emotional manipulation to make you give up secret information like passwords.

8. To keep your tablet's 'immune system' strong against new threats, you should always click 'Install' when a system _____ is available.

Answer: B) Update

Software updates usually include 'security patches' that fix holes that hackers found, keeping your device safe from the latest known threats.

9. If you are being bullied online and the person says 'Don't tell anyone or else,' what is the most effective way to stop the harm?

Answer: C) Screenshot the evidence and tell a trusted adult

Saving evidence allows adults and platform moderators to verify the situation and take action to stop the person from hurting you or others.

10. Using the same password for your school laptop, your favorite game, and your tablet makes it easier for hackers to break into all your accounts at once.

Answer: A) True

This is called 'credential stuffing.' If a hacker gets one password and you use it everywhere, they instantly have keys to every part of your digital life.