Name: _____   **Date:** _____

Answer Key: Data Literacy Fundamentals for 9th Grade

Strengthen foundational skills in spotting credible evidence and organizing digital archives to navigate the information-heavy world of high school research.

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1. When researching the impact of microplastics on marine life, which source would likely provide the most authoritative data for a 9th-grade science report?

Answer: C) A report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

> Government agencies like NOAA provide peer-reviewed, verified scientific data, making them more reliable than personal blogs or advertisements.

2. True or False: Using a dataset from 1995 to predict tomorrow's smartphone market trends is an example of using relevant and timely data.

Answer: B) False

> Data literacy involves evaluating the relevance and timeliness of data; tech-related data from 1995 is outdated for modern market predictions.

3. A student organizes their history project interviews by naming files 'Interview_Smith_2023' and 'Interview_Jones_2023'. This practice is an example of _____.

Answer: B) Data management

> Naming and organizing files systematically so they can be easily retrieved and preserved is a core component of data management.

4. You find a graph showing that ice cream sales and shark attacks both increase in July. Attributing shark attacks to ice cream consumption is a failure in which skill?

Answer: C) Interpreting and using data correctly

> Correlation does not equal causation. Understanding the context and true relationship between data points is essential for interpreting data correctly.

5. True or False: If a website looks professional and has many followers, the data it presents is guaranteed to be accurate.

Answer: B) False

Visual design and popularity do not determine accuracy; data must be evaluated based on its source, methodology, and evidence.

6. Which of the following is a key step in protecting sensitive research data on a laptop?

Answer: B) Setting a strong password and using encryption

Protecting data integrity and privacy through passwords and encryption is a fundamental part of managing data responsibly.

7. When a researcher only looks for data that confirms what they already believe, they are demonstrating _____.

Answer: A) Confirmation bias

Confirmation bias occurs when people selectively find or interpret data that supports their existing views rather than assessing data objectively.

8. True or False: Citations are a part of data literacy because they allow others to verify the source and reliability of the data you use.

Answer: A) True

Providing citations is an ethical way to manage and use data, ensuring transparency and giving credit to original data sources.

9. What is the best way to handle a situation where two different credible news agencies report slightly different numbers for a local election?

Answer: C) Cross-reference with a third primary source, like the official city clerk's office

Evaluating data often requires cross-referencing and checking primary official sources to resolve discrepancies and find the most accurate facts.

10. If you are creating a map of local parks for a geography project, using the most recent 'OpenStreetMap' data is an example of _____.

Answer: B) Finding data

Locating an appropriate database or map service to gather information for a project is the first step in the data literacy cycle: finding data.