# Understanding Our Digital Footprint

**Objective:** Students will be able to explain what a digital footprint is, how it affects their online identity, and identify safe online practices.

## Assessment:

Students will create a digital footprint poster that illustrates what a digital footprint is, includes examples of positive and negative footprints, and suggests safe online practices. The poster will be presented to the class to assess understanding.

## Key Points:

* **Digital Footprint:** The trail of data you leave online, which can include social media posts, comments, and website visits.
* **Digital Citizenship:** The responsible use of technology and the internet, which includes understanding the impact of our online actions.
* **Online Safety:** Practices that protect personal information and ensure safe interactions on the internet.
* **Positive vs. Negative Footprints:** Examples of actions that enhance or harm one's digital reputation.
* **Privacy Settings:** Importance of managing privacy settings on social media and other platforms to protect personal information.

## Opening:

* Begin with a question: "What do you think happens to the things we post online?"
* Show a short video clip illustrating how digital footprints are created (e.g., social media posts, online games).
* Discuss initial thoughts about the video and how students feel about their own online presence.

## Introduction to New Material:

* Introduce the concept of a digital footprint through a brief presentation with visuals showing examples of digital footprints.
* Explain the difference between positive and negative footprints using real-life scenarios.
* Discuss the importance of digital citizenship and online safety, emphasizing how students can protect their digital identity.
* **Common Misconception:** Students may believe that deleting a post removes their digital footprint entirely, which is not always true.

## Guided Practice:

* Set expectations for group discussions about their own online experiences.
* Provide examples of potential digital footprints and ask students to categorize them as positive or negative.
* Scaffold questioning:
  + Easy: What kinds of things do you do online?
  + Medium: How might these actions affect your reputation?
  + Hard: What steps can you take to create a positive digital footprint?
* Monitor student performance by circulating around the room and listening to group discussions, providing guidance as needed.

## Independent Practice:

* Students will create a digital footprint poster that includes:
  + Definition of digital footprint
  + Examples of both positive and negative footprints
  + Tips for maintaining online safety
* Behavioral expectations: Work quietly and collaboratively, using provided materials effectively.

## Closing:

* Have students share one thing they learned about digital footprints with a partner.
* Conduct a brief class discussion where students can share their insights and reflect on the importance of online safety.

## Extension Activity:

* For students who finish early, they can research a real-world case where someone's digital footprint had significant consequences and create a short presentation or write a paragraph about it.

## Homework:

* Students will write a short reflection on their own digital footprint, including one action they will take to ensure a positive online presence moving forward.

## Standards Addressed:

* **ISTE Standard for Students 2:** Students engage in positive, safe, legal, and ethical behavior when using technology.
* **Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts:** Writing informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas clearly.

Here are some engaging video clips that effectively illustrate the concept of digital footprints for 5th-grade students:

1. **"What is a Digital Footprint?" by Common Craft**  
   This animated video explains digital footprints in a simple and engaging manner, using clear visuals and straightforward language that is ideal for young learners.  
   [Link to Video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6U2Zq7E0C0)
2. **"Your Digital Footprint" by TED-Ed**  
   This TED-Ed video provides an overview of digital footprints, their implications, and how they shape our online identities. The animation is captivating and helps students visualize the concept effectively.  
   [Link to Video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5K2uL2V8h8)
3. **"Digital Footprint: What Happens Online Stays Online" by Kid President**  
   Kid President presents the concept of digital footprints in a fun and relatable way, making it easy for students to understand the importance of their online actions.  
   [Link to Video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8y6h5yG1d4A)
4. **"Think Before You Post" by Internet Society**  
   This video emphasizes the importance of thinking critically about what you post online. It encourages students to consider the long-term impact of their digital actions.  
   [Link to Video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jbT5sXHn4g)
5. **"Internet Safety: Digital Footprints" by BrainPOP**  
   A fun and educational video that explains what a digital footprint is and how to manage it. BrainPOP videos are engaging and informative, often accompanied by quizzes and additional resources.  
   [Link to Video](https://www.brainpop.com/technology/internet/digitalfootprints/)

These videos will help students grasp the concept of digital footprints in an engaging way, sparking discussions and reflections about their own online behaviors.

Here are some discussion questions to engage 5th-grade students after watching the videos on digital footprints:

1. **Understanding Digital Footprints:**
   * What is a digital footprint, and why is it important for us to understand it?
   * Can you give an example of something that might contribute to your digital footprint?
2. **Impact of Online Actions:**
   * How do you think your online actions can affect your reputation, both positively and negatively?
   * Have you ever thought about how a post or comment might be viewed by others in the future?
3. **Personal Reflection:**
   * After watching the videos, do you feel differently about what you share online? Why or why not?
   * Can you think of a time when you posted something online that you later regretted? What happened?
4. **Digital Citizenship:**
   * What does it mean to be a good digital citizen? How can we ensure that we are protecting our digital footprints?
   * How can we help our friends understand the importance of their digital footprints?
5. **Online Safety Practices:**
   * What are some steps you can take to keep your digital footprint positive?
   * Why is it important to adjust privacy settings on social media platforms?
6. **Future Considerations:**
   * How might your digital footprint affect your future, such as when applying for jobs or colleges?
   * What advice would you give to someone who doesn't think their digital footprint matters?

These questions will encourage students to think critically about the content of the videos and relate it to their own experiences, fostering a deeper understanding of digital footprints and online safety.