Handout 3a: Article on Digital Footprints and Photo Sharing (Lexile 750)

Taking cute and funny pictures isn't new. However, the digital world changes how photos are shared. When you post a photo, you might be sharing private information. And that can be a problem because most children have some kind of digital footprint.

A digital footprint is like a trail of everything you do online. A trail is created when you upload content, surf websites, or play on apps. In fact, your digital footprint may have started before you even posted anything! Parents enjoy sharing cute photos of your young life. However, people can use photos shared by social media. But that isn't the only problem.

Did you know that when you post a photo, your location might be shared? For example, if you take a photo at a baseball game, the photo is tagged to share the location. This is called geotagging. Smart phones automatically add tags to photos. You have to turn it off in settings. This is very important for online safety. What would happen if Little Red Riding Hood posted selfies with geotags?

Remember, posting photos can affect your digital footprint. Digital footprints can become real footprints when someone can track you and your location. Ask your parents to help you research photo sharing. Remember to think before you share!

Sources:

Visualizations to Teach about Mobile Online Privacy:
http://mediasmarts.ca/sites/mediasmarts/files/games/secure-comics/publications/PT2014_PosterAbstract.pdf

Young Children and Digital Footprints
https://www.commonsensemedia.org/file/case-family-tip-sheet-2/download

"Is It Safe to Post Pictures of My Kid Online?" https://www.commonsensemedia.org/privacy-and-internet-safety/is-it-safe-to-post-pictures-of-my-kid-online