Digital Superheros! What's Your Superpower?

Background Knowledge

The digital world can be a positive community for kids and adults to express themselves and their creativity, but it also can have many pitfalls for kids to navigate on their own. At Mazu our users are learning to embrace the positive power of social media in a safe, curated space free of negativity, but we don't want to stop there! We believe digital citizenship needs to be discussed and taught at an early age, so we invite your class to join our movement. You can help us to facilitate discussions on what it means to be a good digital citizen, and how we all have a part to play in making the online world a positive place.

At Mazu we believe you should be asking yourself a few questions before every comment you make and everything you like, share or create:

- Will it be truthful and respectful?
- Will it be creative or inspiring?
- Will it make my friends and family happy?
- Will it be wise, hopeful or fun?
- Do I actually want to share it?

We've provided a sample lesson plan for you and some supplementary materials, feel free to use them to spark discussion and to add your own ideas. Become a part of our movement, discuss, create, and inspire what it means to be a good digital citizen!

As a bonus your students can take their comic strips home and submit them to Mazu for a chance to win an iPad and you can submit a group shot of the classes gallery for a chance to win a workshop on digital citizenship.

Some Vocabulary to Know

Digital Citizen: Someone who is a member of an online community who must uphold the responsibilities and is entitled to the rights of it.
Community: A group of people whose members share common interests or characteristics
Rights and Responsibilities:
- Rights include the right to physical and psychological safety, safety of identity and intellectual property. The rights to participate, privacy, and community. The right to only share what is within comfort limits.
- Responsibilities include being respectful to self and others, being kind, posting with positive intent, working to improve the digital community. The responsibilities to report unsafe behaviour and to help someone who is experiencing negativity online.

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Summary

As a class have your students create comic strips depicting digital superheros who demonstrate outstanding positive traits and are able to navigate the digital world respectfully and responsibly. Then for a chance to win a workshop on digital citizenship, after the lesson explain to your class that you will be sharing a group photo of their creations to the **Mazu App**. Then get your students to bring home their work to share with their parents and to submit it to the **Mazu App** for a chance to win an iPad!

Curriculum Connections and Learning Objectives

This lesson covers the following **Core Competencies**:

*Positive Personal & Cultural Identity: At the end of this lesson students will be able to say:

"I am able to identify the different groups that I belong to"

"I can explain what my values are and how they affect choices I make"

"I can reflect on my strengths and identify my potential as a leader in my community."

*Source: BC's New Curriculum PPCI

*Social Responsibility: At the end of this lesson students will be able to say:

"I can identify how my actions and the actions of others affect my community … and can work to make positive change"

"I can take thoughtful actions to influence positive, sustainable change."

"I can explain when something is unfair"

"I am kind to others, can work or play cooperatively, and can build relationships with people of my choosing"

"Build and sustain positive relationships with diverse people, including people from different generations"

*Source: BC's New Curriculum Social Responsibility

Learning Objectives

Students will also be able to define digital citizenship and understand the rights and responsibilities of a digital citizen. Students will be able to evaluate the appropriate use of technology and participate respectfully and responsibly in their online communities.

Materials

- Pencils
- Coloured pencils and/or thin markers
- Example of comic strip (provided)
- Class set of comic strip outlines (provided)

Key Terms

- Digital Citizen
- Community
- Rights & Responsibilities

Preparation

- Print out a class set of Comic Worksheets provided by Mazu along with Mazu's example.
- Prepare a class set and read over the "Is This a Good Digital Citizen?" activity.
- Print out a class set of the supplementary materials "Student workbook"
- Print out a class set of "Digital Superhero Certificate" along with the parent handout "We Are All Digital Citizens"

Lesson

Introduction (10 -20 minutes)
Gather students and ask them how they socialize and interact online. Ask students how this form of communication is different than interacting with people face to face. How does not being able to read body language affect a conversation? How does not being able to hear tone of voice affect the communication? How do we make up for this in an online format?

> **Define**. Define as a class what a digital citizen is and what traits they possess (truthful, respectful, creative, inspiring, fun, safe). Explain that just as they are citizens of countries, by interacting online we are all digital citizens with rights and responsibilities to our online communities.

> **Activity (Extension).** Divide your class up into groups of 2 or 3 and hand out the activity packs. Give your students time to discuss each example and sort them into "good digital citizenship", "negative digital citizenship" or "neutral digital citizenship". Once the majority have finished, come together as a class and discuss the answers. Some of the answers may vary, which makes for good discussion as some of the statements are dependent on the circumstances around the situation.

Development (10 minutes)
- Share the Mazu comic strip example with your students.
- Model brainstorming of a digital superhero and what they might do on the board
    - Ask their friends permission before posting a photo, write encouraging comments on friends posts, double check that personal information is not identifiable in

anything they post online such as house numbers) Then allow students a few minutes to brainstorm ideas with their neighbour on what a digital superhero might do. Then come together as a class, and share student ideas on the board.

- Share the "Comic Worksheets" with your class, pointing out format of the comic (the boxes, title).
- Provide some guidance on how to layout their comic strip.
  - Have the first box introduce your digital superhero to the readers.
  - Have the final three boxes show what their digital superhero does in action! How are they being a superhero online (safe, truthful, wise, respectful, kind, adding positively to their community)?
- Elicit student input for filling in dialogue and content
  - "STOP! Don't post that photo! You can see your house number in the background!" (Safe digital practice)
  - Posting a positive comment on a friends photo that has been receiving lots of negative comments from others (standing up to cyberbullying)
  - Creating a podcast with a friend and double checking that everything said on their podcast is truthful. (Responsible digital citizen)
- Let students know that once events and dialogue are completed they can then go back and add more detail/colour to their drawings.

Group Practice/Interactive Modeling (10 minutes)
- Have students help each other brainstorm ideas on what makes good digital superheros.

Explore - The fun stuff (30 minutes)
- Get to work, digital superheros! Have students make their comic strips come alive by drawing and writing stories about how their superhero makes online a safer more truthful, respectful, creative, fun space.

Supplementary Handout (20 minutes)
- To solidify the concepts of digital citizenship, and what it means to have rights and responsibilities as a citizen of a digital community allow students time to work through the "Student Workbook".
- This activity could be extended to take home work.

Review

Conclusion

Have your students do a gallery walk of classmates' work before coming together as a class to discuss the changes that as individuals we can make so that we all can be digital superheros by being respectful and safe online. Do a recap on the responsibilities of digital citizens to finish up the lesson and present each student with their Digital Superhero certificate!

Take a group photo of your class' final products and upload it to the Mazu App for a chance for you to win a workshop on Digital Citizenship with us! Then send your students home with their creations and Parent handouts to share with their parents and to upload their awesome submissions on the Mazu App for their chance to win an iPad!