



RELATIONSHIPS & COMMUNICATION

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DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP | GRADE 5

Digital Friendships

 common sense education®



Essential Question

How do you keep online friendships safe?

Learning Objectives

1

Compare and contrast different kinds of online-only friendships.



2

Describe the benefits and risks of online-only friendships.



3

Describe how to respond to an online-only friend if they ask something that makes students uncomfortable.



Have you ever chatted with someone online? Who was it?
How often?

Directions:

1. Take a moment to think silently about these questions.
2. Then, take turns sharing your response.



Directions

1. Silently read "Sita's Online Friendships: Two Scenarios."
1. As you read, circle or **highlight** any words that are unfamiliar to you.
1. Underline the parts of the story that show how Sita might be feeling.
1. If you finish early, write or type what you think Sita learns in each of the two scenarios.

Scenario 1

Sita is a middle-school student who is a little shy about meeting new people. Her science class has a project where each student gets to video-chat with a student from their "sister" school in Jaipur, India, which is 7,770 miles away.

Sita is assigned to video-chat with a girl named Kaia. Sita is nervous about meeting her and wonders if they will have anything in common. When they meet, however, Sita quickly sees that Kaia is very nice and that they have lots in common. For example, they're both on Instagram.

Sita is also excited to meet Kaia because Sita's parents are from India, and Sita has always wanted to know more about what it's like there. At the end of their chat, Kaia asks Sita if she can follow her on Instagram. Sita smiles and says, "Of course!"

Scenario 2

Sita gets a message on her phone from her friend CJcool11. She doesn't know CJcool11's real name and age, but they've been online friends for a couple of months.

They "met" when he posted a comment on one of her Instagram photos, a photo of her dog, Pepper. She replied, and they shared some funny stories about their dogs.

Now, they talk a lot online. When she shares a problem she has at school, CJcool11 always has good ideas for handling the problem.

Today, CJcool11's message reads, "My annoying neighbor never cleans up after his dog."

Sita responds: "That's rude. Everyone on my street always does." After a moment, CJcool11 answers back, "Rly? What street do you live on?"

Sita pauses. This question makes her feel uncomfortable.



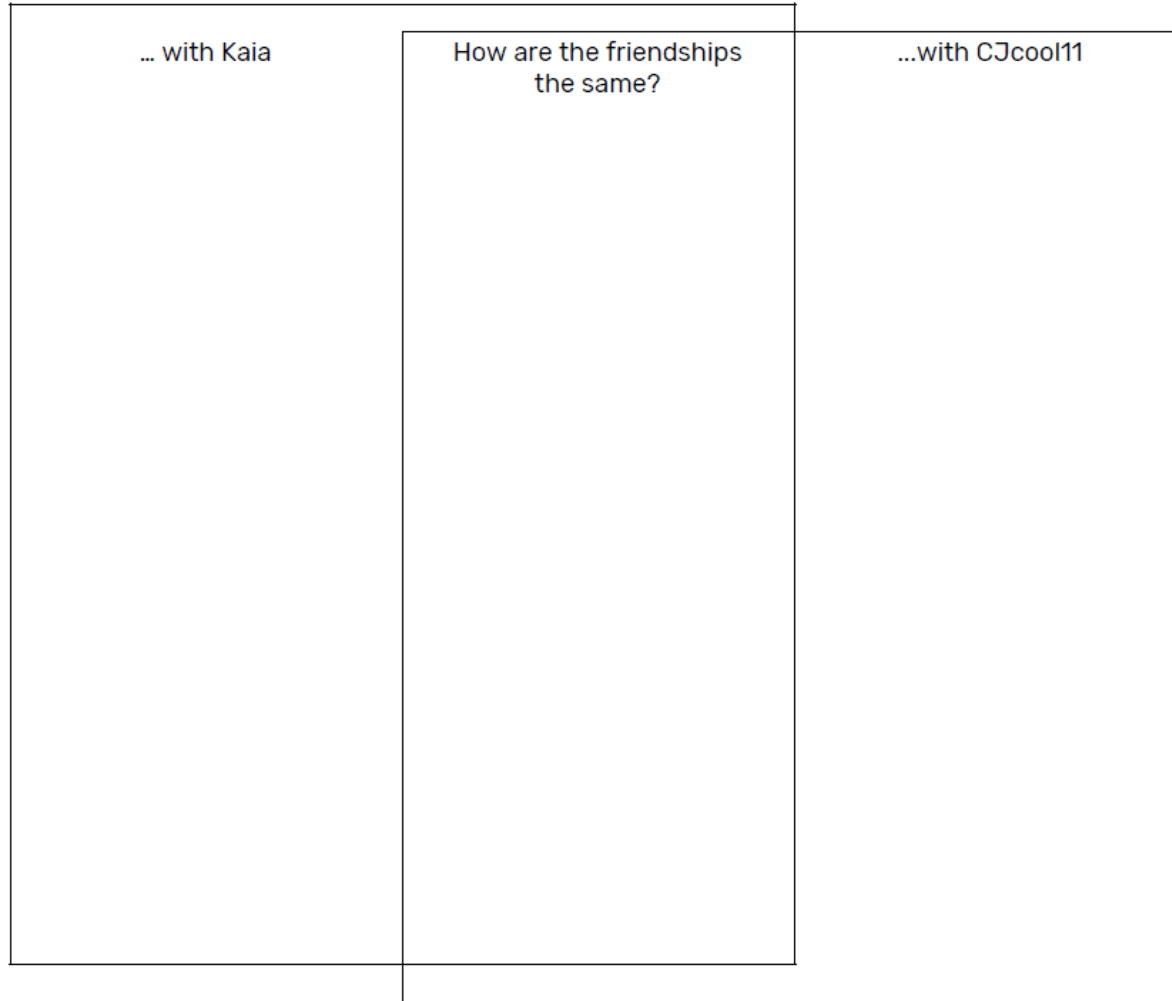
THINK-PAIR-SHARE: "SITA'S ONLINE FRIENDSHIPS"

What happens to Sita in these two scenarios? How do her feelings change? Take turns sharing your ideas with your partner.

Directions:

1. Take a moment to think silently about these questions.
2. As we share, add to the Venn diagram on your handout.

Venn diagram: Sita's online friendships





What are some of the benefits and risks to these relationships for Sita?

Directions:

1. Take a moment to think silently about these questions.
2. Then, take turns sharing your response with your partner.
3. As we share, add a "+" or "-" to each benefit in the Venn diagram.



Private Information

Information about you that can be used to identify you because it's unique to you (e.g., your full name or your address)



Ways to Respond to an Uncomfortable Question





Writing Prompt

If you were Sita, how would you respond to each of the scenarios? In your response, think about the best way to keep the benefits of the friendship while staying safe.

Scenario 1: What message would you send to Kaia?

Scenario 2: How would you respond to CJcool11's question at the end of the scenario? What would you do?

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