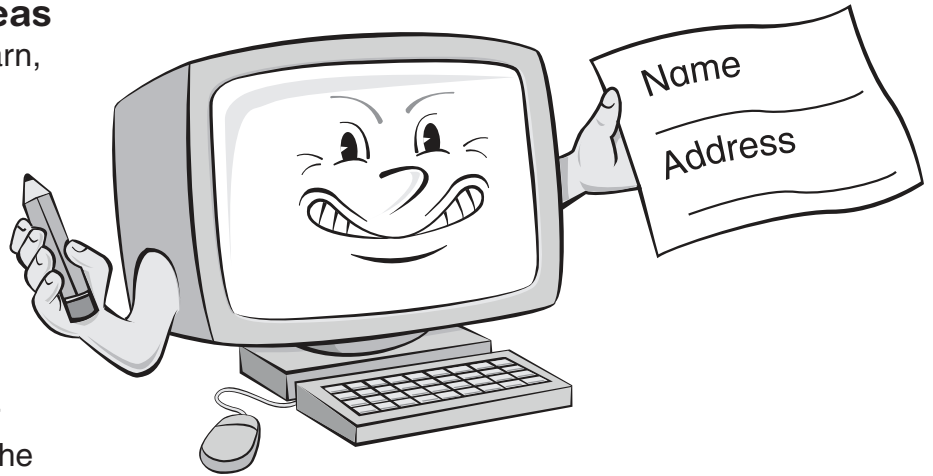Name _____ Date _____

Private and Personal Information

A Great Place to Share Ideas

The Internet is a great place to learn, to be entertained, and to share your ideas. Social networking, gaming, and video-sharing Web sites are all about sharing with others. Even online shoppers share ideas when they comment and rate products for sale. The people you share with could be your friends next door, or they could be people who live on the other side of the world.

What's Private Identity Information?

- full (first and last) name
- postal address
- e-mail address
- phone numbers
- passwords
- calling card numbers
- credit card numbers
- Social Security number
- mother's maiden name

Private Identity Information

Each time you share information about yourself online, stop and think: "Am I giving out information that I should keep private?" These kinds of facts, shown in the box, are called *private identity information*. You keep them private because they could be used for *identity theft*.

Identity Theft

Kids and teens, as well as adults, are targets for identity theft. An identity thief uses someone else's private identity information to pretend to be that person. Once the thief has a new identity, he or she can use YOUR name to get a driver's license and buy things. You might not find out until years later that someone is getting parking and speeding tickets in YOUR NAME. Identity thieves may also apply for credit cards in your name. Then they run up bills they never intend to pay.

So protect yourself, your family, and your friends. Don't give out anyone's private identity information online or over the phone without that person's permission.

Name _____ Date _____

Personal Information

It's okay to share information online about yourself that cannot be used to identify you. This is called personal information, and the box shows some examples. Think of some other examples to list below.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

What's Personal Information?

- your age
- whether you are male or female
- how many brothers and sisters you have
- your favorite band
- your favorite food
- how many pets you have
- the name of your pet
- your opinion about an important issue

Be CyberSmart! ®

Cyber security is a team effort. If your family thinks someone who shouldn't has your private identity information, they can make a complaint to the Federal Trade Commission (type "ftc identity theft" into a search engine).

Make a Collage

Plan a collage about yourself that includes pictures, words, and other items. First, use the box below to jot down ideas about what to put in your collage. You can include personal information, but omit private identity information—just as you would online. Then use these ideas to make your collage. Finally, have the class evaluate your collage, making sure it contains no private identity information.