



MEDIA MASTERS ROCK – 3rd Grade Study Guide

Digital Citizenship for Kids: How to THINK FIRST Online

Designed for: Alabama Library Media Specialists

Grade Level: 3rd Grade

Focus: Critical Thinking, Evaluating Online Information, Digital Responsibility

Estimated Time: 30–35 minutes



Alabama Digital Literacy & Computer Science Standards (DLCS) Alignment – 3rd Grade

This lesson supports:

3.DL.1 – Practice safe, responsible, and ethical behavior when using technology.

Students evaluate what to believe, what to ignore, and what not to share.

3.DL.2 – Identify accurate vs. inaccurate online information and explain why.

Students learn to question outrageous posts, misleading images, or emotional claims.

3.DL.3 – Describe why people create digital content and how it can influence others.

Students examine purpose: entertainment, attention, profit, manipulation.

3.CC.1 – Apply critical thinking to digital information by analyzing sources and evidence.

Students use the three core questions of Media Master Critical Thinking.

3.CC.2 – Demonstrate beginning skills in evaluating digital media based on evidence.

Students practice simple fact-checking and source awareness.



BEFORE WATCHING THE VIDEO

Say:

“Sometimes what we see online looks *real*, but isn’t. Today we’re learning how Media Masters use **critical thinking** to figure out whether something online is real, fake, or missing information.”

Ask:

- “Have you ever believed something online that turned out to be wrong?”
- “How did you figure out the truth?”

Optional warm-up: Show a silly image (pizza tree, dinosaur on a beach) and ask, “Real, or fake... and why?”



WATCH THE VIDEO

Digital Citizenship for Kids: How to THINK FIRST Online

Encourage students to listen for the **3 Media Master Questions**:

1. **Who made it — and why?**
2. **Is there proof it’s real?**
3. **Why do I feel this way?**

They should also watch for the examples of *fake or misleading* content.



AFTER-VIEWING DISCUSSION

Use higher-level thinking questions:

1. Identification

“What were some of the videos or posts Steve saw that were clearly not real?”

(Answers: dinosaurs on the beach, pizza trees, flying hamster, pudding house.)

2. Reasoning

“What clues helped Steve figure out each one was fake or tricky?”

3. Emotion Awareness

“Why is it important to notice how a post makes you feel before responding?”

4. Source Analysis

“What does ‘Who made it — and why?’ help us understand?”

5. Evidence

“What counts as good proof online?”

Students should identify:

- trusted sources
- multiple confirmations
- real photos/videos
- not just “everyone says so”

ACTIVITY 1 – “Truth Detective Challenge”

COS Alignment: 3.CC.1, 3.CC.2, 3.DL.2

Materials:

A set of 6–9 printed cards with:

- **Real claims** (kid wins spelling bee, new playground opens)
- **Fake claims** (hamster flies, pizza trees)
- **Misleading claims** (clickbait headline, half-story posts)

Student Task:

Working in pairs, students sort each card into:

- ✓ REAL
- ✗ FAKE
- ? NEEDS MORE INFO

For each card, pairs must answer the **3 Media Master Questions** aloud and justify their sorting choice.

Teacher prompts:

- “What evidence did you find?”
- “What made you doubt it?”
- “Where could you look to check?”

ACTIVITY 2 – “Break the Trick!” (Small Group Analysis)

COS Alignment: 3.DL.3, 3.CC.2

Students examine why someone might create a fake or tricky post.

Each group receives one example:

- Pizza tree image
- Viral fake video clip
- Clickbait headline
- Outrage-driven meme

They answer:

1. “Why would someone make this?”
(Attention, money, humor, manipulation, tricking others, etc.)
2. “Who might believe it — and why?”

3. “How can we check the truth?”

Groups share findings with the class.



EXTENSION – Create a Mini PSA: “Think First!”

COS Alignment: 3.CC.1, 3.DL.1

Students design a small poster (or half-sheet printable) that teaches younger kids how to THINK FIRST online.

Poster must include:

- One example of a “wild” or “tricky” video
- The three questions
- A simple slogan like:
 - “Stop. Think. Check.”
 - “Ask Before You Believe.”
 - “Media Masters Think First!”

Display the posters in the library.



CLOSING / LIBRARIAN SCRIPT

“Media Masters know that not everything online is real.
Some things are real, some things are fake, and some things need checking.
When you stop, think, and check before believing —
you use your **Critical Thinking Superpower**,
and you make the internet a smarter, kinder place.”

“Remember: Stop. Think. Check. That’s how YOU become a Media Master!”