

Student Handout: Mobile Phone Theft and Organized Crime

Stay Safe, Stay Smart

What You'll Learn Today:

- Why mobile phone theft is increasing.
 - How organized crime is involved in mobile phone theft.
 - Why young people are targeted to commit these crimes.
 - How you can protect yourself and your phone.
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Why Are Phones Targets for Theft?

Mobile phones have become one of the most valuable things people own:

- They're worth a lot of money on the black market.
 - Criminals can hack into phones to steal personal information, like bank accounts, passwords, and even social media profiles.
 - Phones are often used to commit other crimes like identity theft or fraud.
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The Role of Organized Crime:

- Criminal gangs recruit young people to steal phones. Why?
Easy money, a sense of **belonging**, or promises of **respect**.
 - Often, young people don't realize how deep they'll get involved, making it hard to leave once they start.
 - High-level criminals stay hidden while making others do the risky work.
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What Happens After Your Phone is Stolen?

- Personal information on your phone can be used for fraud.
 - Criminals may sell your stolen phone for hundreds of pounds.
 - Your social media and personal data could be misused for illegal activities.
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How to Protect Yourself and Your Phone:

1. **Keep your phone out of sight:** Don't leave your phone in an open bag or on a table where it can be easily snatched.
 2. **Be aware of your surroundings:** Especially when you're on the phone in public.
 3. **Use strong passwords and security features:**
 - Set up a PIN or use fingerprint/face recognition.
 - Enable **two-factor authentication (2FA)** on important accounts.
 4. **Avoid using public Wi-Fi for sensitive information:** Especially for banking or shopping.
 5. **Use technology to help you:**
 - Wear a smartwatch or wireless earbuds so you don't need to take your phone out.
 - Set up GPS tracking and remote wiping so you can find or erase your phone if stolen.
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Class Activity:

1. **Group Discussion:**
 - How do organized crime groups target young people to steal phones?
 - Why do you think young people get involved in these crimes?
 2. **Safety Tips Brainstorm:**
 - How can you protect yourself from phone theft?
 - Write down 3 things you can do differently to stay safe in public.
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Reflect and Take Action:

- Think about what you've learned today. What changes will you make to protect your phone and your personal data?
 - Share this information with your friends and family.
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Extra Homework Challenge: Find a video tutorial on how to set up **two-factor authentication (2FA)** on your phone and complete the setup. Bring what you found to class next time and be ready to share how it works!

Want to Learn More?

Visit [Discover Life Skills.com](https://www.discoverlifeskills.com) for more tips and videos on staying safe!