

POLICEWORK

PROTECTING AND STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITIES



THE IMPORTANT WORK OF THE POLICE

Police officers are everyday heroes who help keep people safe, solve problems, and help people follow the rules of the community. Did you know there are many different types of police officers who do all sorts of interesting jobs?

Policing is the work police officers do to protect people and keep peace in our neighborhoods, schools, and parks. From helping someone in an emergency to finding lost pets and making sure traffic runs smoothly, police officers help in many different ways.

In this guide, you'll learn about the many types of police officers, the cool things they do, and how they work together to keep us safe. You'll also discover some fun facts about their special jobs and tools!

Let's explore the world of policing together and see what makes police officers so important in our lives!



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POLICE JOBS

There are many different roles within policing. Each one plays an important part in keeping our communities safe. Not every police department has every role. A police chief will hire the special skills needed for their department to meet the needs of their community. They will also share resources with other public safety departments when they need a specialty they don't have in their department.

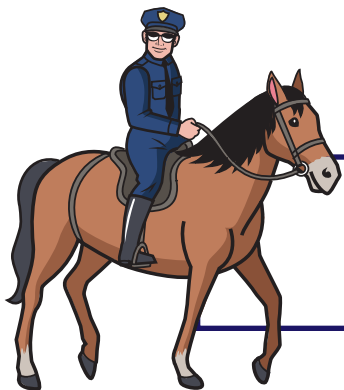


Patrol Officers

These officers drive police cars and keep neighborhoods safe. They respond to emergencies big and small.

K-9 Unit Officers

These officers work with specially trained dogs to find missing people or locate things like illegal substances. The dogs can smell things up to 100,000 times better than humans!



Mounted Police

These officers ride horses to patrol parks and large events.

Detectives

Detectives solve mysteries and figure out what happened when a crime was committed. They often use clues, fingerprints, and even cameras to crack cases!



Traffic Police

These officers make sure everyone follows the rules of the road.

School Resource Officers (SROs)

These officers work right in schools to help keep students safe. They often visit classrooms to talk about safety and help with fun activities!



SWAT Team Officers

These officers handle very tough situations and wear special gear to stay safe. Their gear includes shields and helmets!

Marine Police

These officers patrol lakes, rivers, and oceans to keep people safe on the water. They ride in boats and sometimes use jet skis!



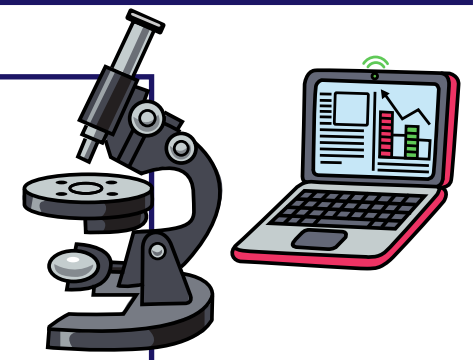
Air Support Units

These officers fly helicopters or small planes to help with searches and emergencies. They can use spotlights from the sky to help locate people or vehicles at night!



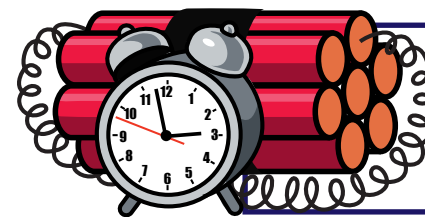
Forensic Scientists and Crime Scene Technicians

Some police use science to collect evidence and analyze it for investigations. There are a variety of jobs in forensic science, including crime scene technicians, who collect evidence at a crime scene, and forensic scientists, who analyze it in a lab.



Bomb Squad

These specially trained police officers can contain or disable explosive devices. They wear special suits to keep themselves safe.



These 11 roles are just the start. There are many types of police officers with unique roles, and they all work together to keep communities safe!

POLICE UNIFORMS

The police uniform is an important tool for police officers. Extensive research has looked at how people respond to police uniforms and even what colors they should be. Studies have found that people follow instructions much more quickly when they're given by a police officer in uniform.

Police officers wear different types of uniforms depending on what they're doing. Think of it like having special clothes for gym class and different clothes for a school concert! They have two main types of uniforms: Class A and Class B.

CLASS A UNIFORM

The fancy uniform. This is the uniform that officers wear for special events, ceremonies, and formal occasions (like parades or graduations).

Tie

Officers wear a neat tie that matches their uniform color.

Shiny Badge

Their badge is extra polished for Class A uniforms.

Long-sleeved Dress Coat

A crisp, pressed coat that's usually dark blue or black. It has special patches on the shoulders that show which police department they work for and what rank they are.

Dress Pants

These are pressed pants with a sharp crease down the front. They usually have a stripe down the side in a different color.

CLASS B UNIFORM

The working uniform. This is their everyday uniform that officers wear while helping people in the community.

Hat

A special hat that matches the uniform.

Name Tag

A tag that shows the officer's name so people know who is helping them.

Buttons and Badges

These tell people important things about the officer, like how long they've been helping their community.

Department Patches

Special badges sewn onto their shirts that show which city or town they work for.

Rank Insignia

Special marks that show if they're a regular officer, sergeant, or captain.

Short-sleeved or Long-sleeved Shirt

These shirts are made of stronger material that's easier to move in. They still have all the special patches.

Duty Belt

This goes around their waist and holds all their important tools.

Comfortable Pants

These pants have special pockets to hold things officers need, like a small notebook to write down important information.

Comfortable Boots

Special black boots that help officers walk, run, and stay safe all day long. They keep their feet dry and protected.

A POLICE OFFICER'S DUTY BELT

Police officers wear a special belt that carries tools they need to do their job. Sometimes officers wear the items on a vest. The belt is very strong and has special holders for each piece of equipment. With all the equipment, it can weigh 15 to 20 pounds. Officers train for a long time to learn how to use everything on their belt properly and safely. Here are the items on a police officer's duty belt:

Radio

This allows officers talk to other police officers and the people who answer 911 calls. It's one of the most important tools because it lets them call for help or tell others where they are.

Rubber Gloves

Officers carry special gloves to keep their hands clean and safe when they're helping people who might be hurt or sick, just like doctors and nurses do.

Gun and Spare Magazines

Officers carry these tools as a last resort to protect people in very dangerous situations. They get special training and follow strict rules about when they can use them.

Baton

A special stick that officers carry to help keep themselves and others safe.

Handcuffs

Officers carry two pairs of handcuffs in special pouches. These are used when someone has broken the law and needs to be safely taken to the police station.

Flashlight

A very bright light that helps officers see in dark places, especially at night. It's also useful for directing traffic or signaling to other people.

Taser

This tool helps officers safely stop someone who is being dangerous. It works from a distance and makes the person's muscles stop working for a short time.

Pepper Spray

This spray is like very strong, spicy pepper, and it can stop someone who is trying to hurt others. Officers are very careful about using it.

DID YOU KNOW?

The first police uniform was adopted in 1829 by the London police department. They chose dark blue to stand out from the British military, who wore red and white. The first police department in the United States was established in New York City in 1853, and it chose dark blue uniforms similar to the ones in London.



Police officers are like community helpers who use these tools responsibly to keep everyone safe. They spend many hours practicing and learning the right way to use each item, and they always try to solve problems by talking first.

BADGES

A police badge is a shiny, special symbol that police officers wear to show their job is to help and protect people. Every badge means the officer has been trained and trusted to do an important job in the community.

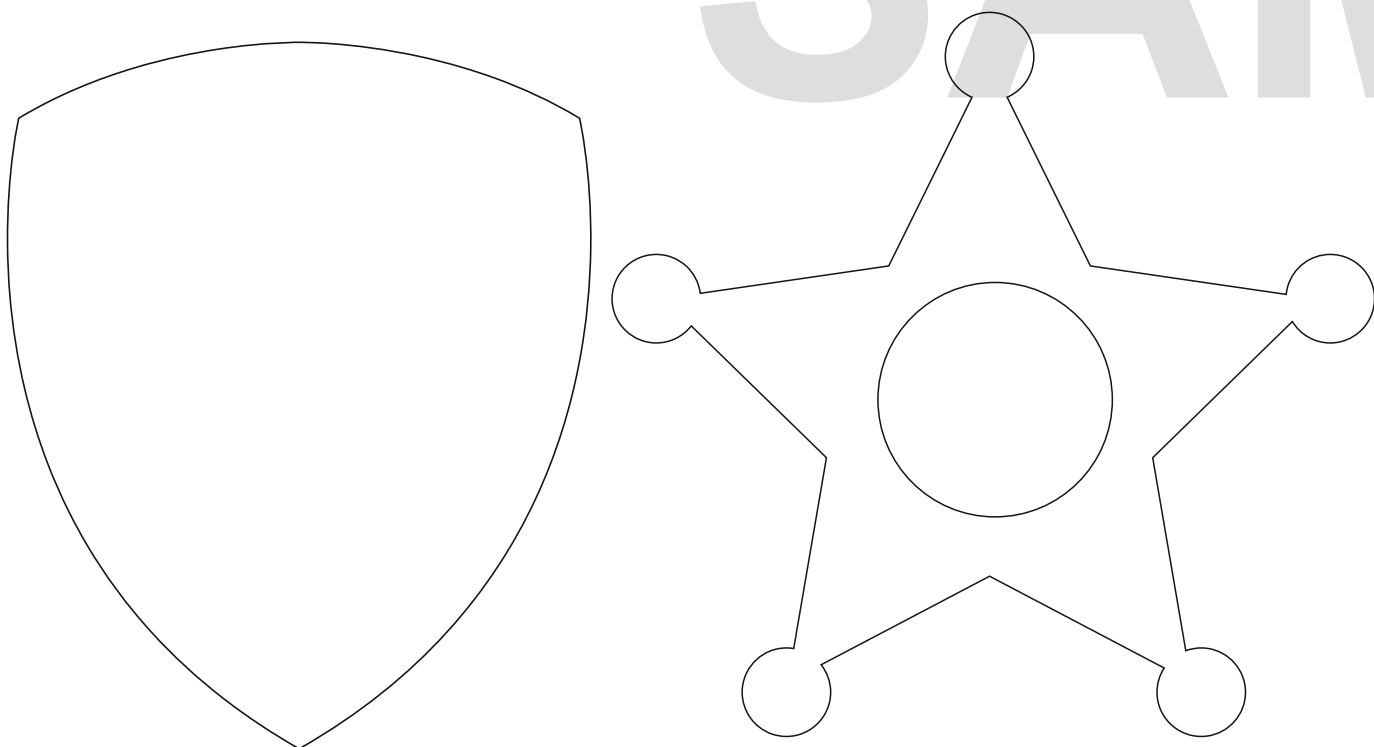
Most police badges are shaped like a shield or a star, and they're often made of gold or silver metal. The badge usually shows the name of the city or town and the police department, and sometimes it has a number called a badge number that's unique to each officer, like an ID. The design of each badge is special to the city or state it comes from.

Some badges also have pictures or symbols, like an eagle, a flag, or the scales of justice. Officers usually wear their badge on their uniform or carry it in a wallet if they're in regular clothes. The word "badge" comes from an old word that means "mark of honor."



DESIGN YOUR OWN BADGES

Pick a department. It could be your local police department or one from a world in your favorite book or video game. What symbols and key information would you include? Create your badges in the space below.



CALLING 911

Did you know that there's a special number you can call in an emergency if you need help fast? That number is 911. Calling 911 will let you talk to a specially trained 911 operator who can send the police, firefighters, or an ambulance.

911 Is Only for Emergencies

But what counts as an emergency? An emergency is something dangerous or scary where help is needed—for example, a fire, someone being very hurt, or a stranger trying to break into your house. Some things that aren't emergencies are a small cut that just needs a Band-Aid, a lost toy, and your dog pooping on the floor.

NEVER call 911 as a joke or "just for fun." That can be very dangerous because someone else who really needs help might be waiting to talk to the 911 operator.

If you ever call 911 by accident, stay on the line and tell the operator it was a mistake so they know you're safe.

What Happens If You Call 911

You probably won't ever have to call 911, but if you do, you'll hear something like: **"911, what's your emergency?"** You should tell them all about what's going on; they're there to help.

Then the operator might ask you questions like these:

What happened?

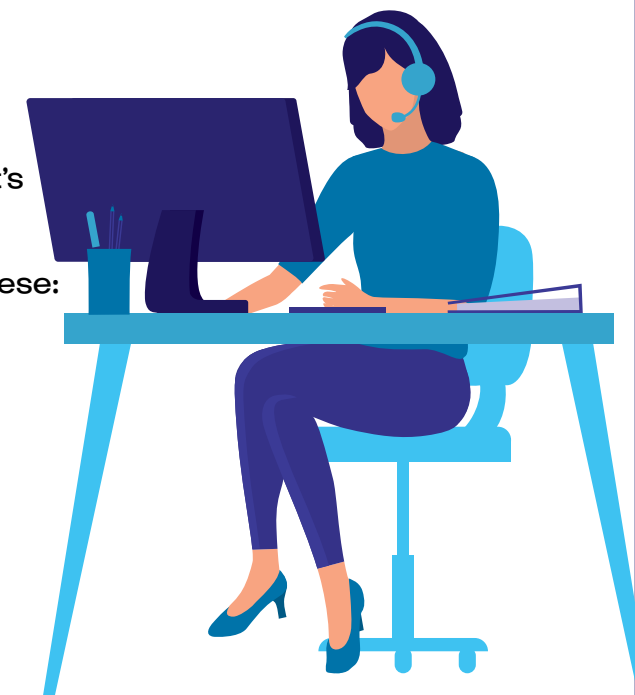
Where do you live?

Who needs help?

Why do they need help?

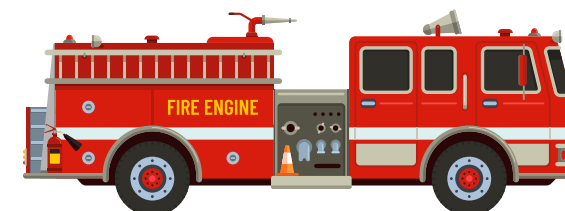
Is there a grown-up with you?

It's very important to tell the truth. Try to speak clearly so you can be heard.



WHAT'S YOUR EMERGENCY?

The 911 operator asks questions to figure out what kind of emergency is happening so they can send the right people to help. Let's pretend you're a 911 operator and someone calls because there's a fire in their home. Which of these vehicles would you send?



VEHICLES

What makes a police vehicle special? Police vehicles are outfitted with specialized tools and equipment so police officers can do their jobs while they're out in the community.

Radio System

to communicate with other officers and the police station.

Cameras

Often equipped with dashboard cameras to record traffic stops and other events.

Flashing Lights and Sirens

to warn other drivers and get through traffic quickly.

Bulletproofing

Some police cars have bulletproof windows and doors for extra safety.

Computer

Helps officers look up important information, like where a crime happened or who owns a car.



License Plate

Police cars may have special license plates to show they're government vehicles.

Speed and Power

Designed to go faster and handle tough driving situations during emergencies.

Special Paint and Decals

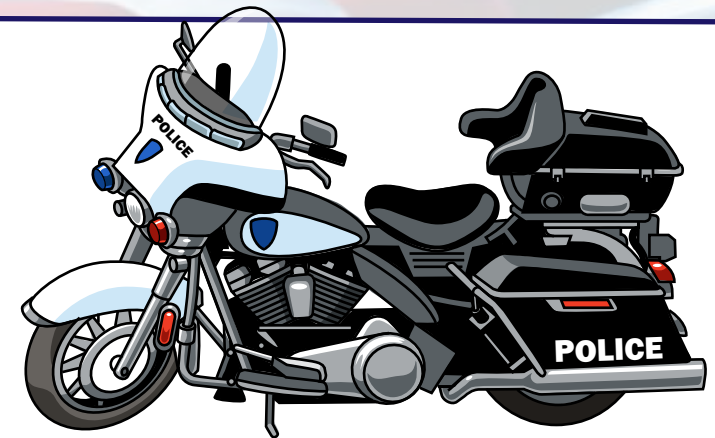
with the police department's colors and logo, often with the word "Police" written on it.

Back Seat Setup

The back seat is often simple, with no fancy materials, so it's easy to clean if necessary. Often has a divider between the front and back seats to keep officers safe if they transport someone.



Some police departments use bicycles because they're quiet and can go places cars can't go, like narrow paths in parks.



Police motorcycles can turn around in very tight spaces. They need only about half the space a police car needs to make a U-turn!



Police boats help keep people safe on lakes and oceans. They're specially designed to go fast and stay stable in rough water.

DESIGN YOUR OWN POLICE CAR

Draw it here. What features would you add?

Forensics

How Police Forensics Works (for Kids!)

Imagine you're a detective trying to solve a mystery. How do you figure out what happened? That's where forensics comes in! Police forensics is like science mixed with detective work. Forensic scientists and police work together to solve crimes, just like in mystery books or TV shows. Here's how it works:

1. Looking for Clues at the Scene

Forensics experts start by visiting the place where something happened, called the crime scene.

They carefully look for clues, like these:

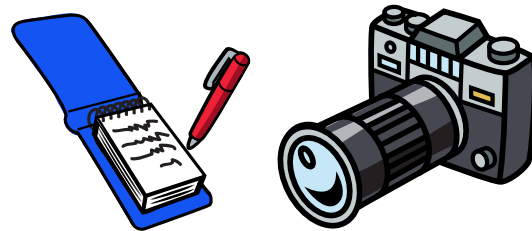
- Fingerprints
- Footprints
- Broken objects
- Hairs or fibers from clothes

Fun fact: They wear gloves and special suits so they don't mess up the clues!

2. Taking Pictures and Notes

They take lots of photos of the scene so they can study it later. They write down everything they see—where things are and anything unusual.

Fun fact: They sometimes draw maps of the crime scene to show where clues were found!



3. Collecting Evidence

Evidence is anything that might help solve the case. They put things like fingerprints, hair, or tiny pieces of glass into special bags to keep them safe.

Fun fact: Evidence is often very small, so they use tools like tweezers and magnifying glasses to pick it up!



4. Fingerprints - Like a Secret Code

Everyone has different fingerprints, even twins! Forensics experts use powders or special lights to find fingerprints on objects. Then, they compare those prints to prints they have on file to try to find a match.

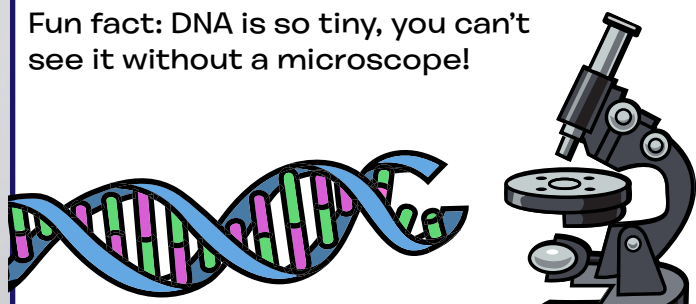
Fun fact: You leave fingerprints on things every time you touch them!



5. DNA, the Body's Clue

DNA is like a recipe that makes you you! It's in your hair, skin, and spit. If someone leaves behind hair or saliva, scientists can study the DNA to figure out who it belongs to.

Fun fact: DNA is so tiny, you can't see it without a microscope!



6. Using Technology

Forensics teams use computers to match fingerprints or check DNA. They also watch video recordings from cameras to find out what happened.

Fun fact: They sometimes use lasers to see clues that are invisible to the eye!



7. Solving the Mystery

Once they've studied all the clues, they share their findings with detectives. Detectives use this information to figure out who did what, just like they're solving a puzzle! Can you find any pieces of evidence here? Do you see anything that might help you gather more evidence?



Forensics is all about using science, observation, and technology to uncover the truth. It's like being part of a real-life mystery-solving team!

SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU

While the police are here to support the community and to respond to emergencies, everyday safety starts with each and every one of us. You play an important role in keeping yourself and your family safe.

Know your important information:

Make sure you can say your full name, address, parents' names, and phone number. If you're too young to remember a phone number, keep a parent's number written in your backpack.

Name: _____ My Phone #: _____

Address: _____

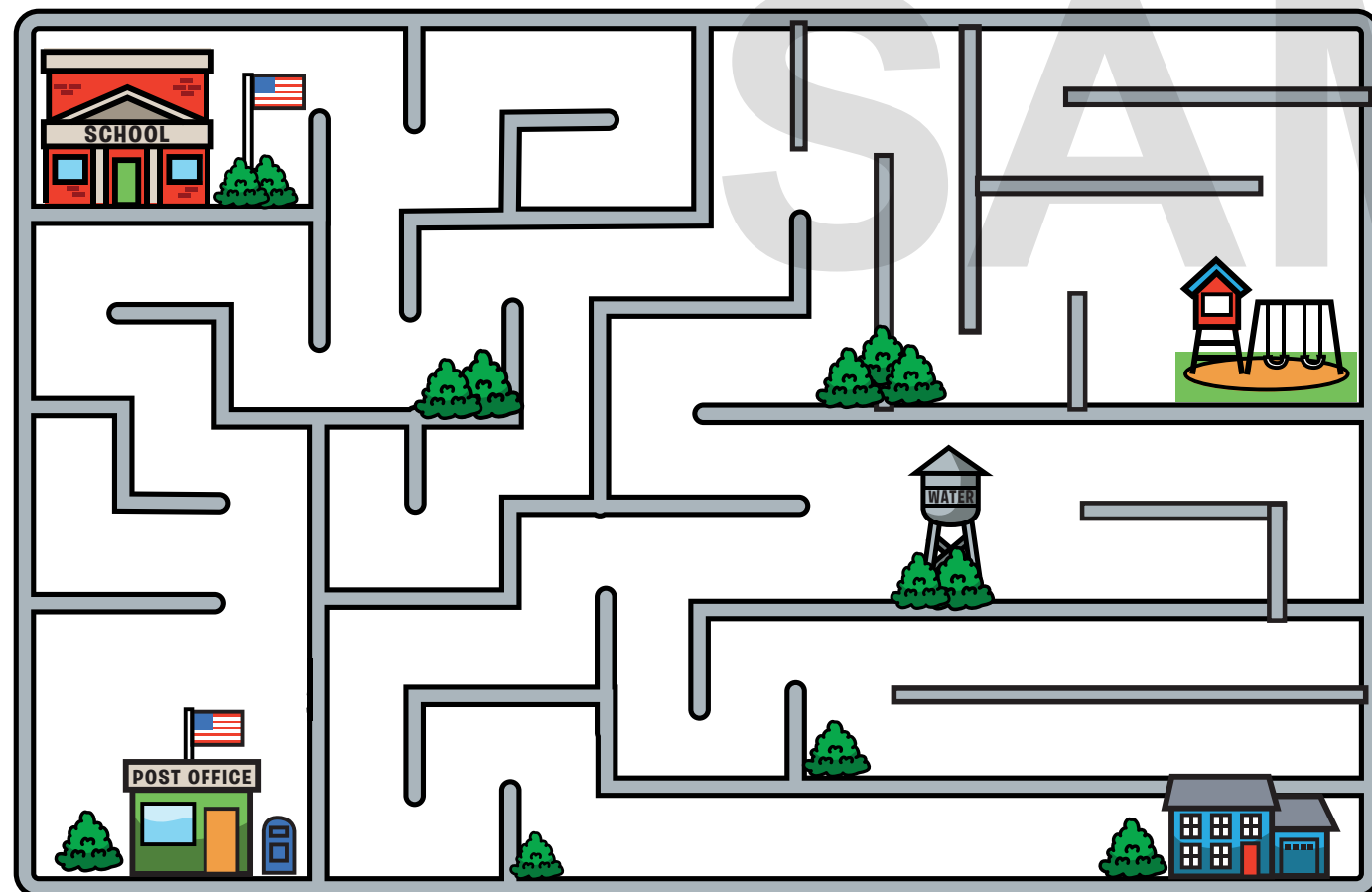
Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Phone #: _____

Know Your Neighborhood

Do you know how to get home from school on your own? You can use landmarks like playgrounds, water towers, or post offices to help you along the way.

START



FINISH

SAFETY TIPS

Use the buddy system:

Always have a friend, sibling, or trusted adult with you when you're walking to school, playing outside, or going anywhere. Stay in well-lit, populated areas where others can see you.

Learn about safe adults:

Police officers, teachers, librarians, and store clerks in uniform are safe people to ask for help. If you're lost, look for someone in uniform or a parent with children.

Stay aware of your surroundings:

Don't use headphones or look at your phone while you're walking. Pay attention to what's happening around you and trust your feelings if something doesn't seem right.

Practice home safety:

Keep doors and windows locked. Don't open the door for anyone when you're home alone, even if they say they know your parents. Ask who it is, but don't tell them you're alone.

Understand the "safe distance rule":

Keep an arm's length plus three big steps between yourself and any stranger who tries to approach you. If someone makes you uncomfortable, it's okay to be loud and say "NO!"

Learn about online safety:

Never share personal information online, including your address, school name, or pictures. Don't talk to people you don't know in real life, even if they seem friendly.

Know about "tricky people":

Be cautious if an adult asks you for help (like finding a lost pet) or offers you treats. Safe adults ask other adults for help, not children.

Have a family code word: Create a secret word with your parents. If someone says they were sent to pick you up, they must know this word. If they don't know it, don't go with them.

Remember emergency numbers:

Learn when and how to call 911. Know that it's only for real emergencies, but don't be afraid to use it if you feel you're in danger.

STAY SAFE online

Be Smart about Personal Information

Never share your full name, address, phone number, school name, or password online. This information is like your special secret—keep it safe!

Talk to a Grown-up

If someone you don't know messages you online, or if something makes you feel uncomfortable, scared, or confused, tell a trusted adult right away! Parents, teachers, and other grown-ups are there to help you.

Use Strong Passwords

Create passwords that mix letters, numbers, and symbols. Never share your passwords with friends, and use different passwords for different websites.

Ask Before You Click

Always ask a parent or guardian before doing any of these things:

- Downloading games or apps
- Clicking on pop-up messages
- Opening emails from people you don't know
- Visiting new websites

Be Kind Online

Treat others online the way you want to be treated. Never send mean messages or share embarrassing photos of others. Remember: once something is posted online, it's hard to completely remove it.

Limit Screen Time

Take regular breaks from computers, tablets, and phones. Play outside, read books, and spend time with family and friends in the real world too!

Stay on Kid-Friendly Sites

Use websites and apps made especially for kids your age. Ask your parents to help set up parental controls that keep you on safe websites.

Trust Your Feelings

If something doesn't feel right online, it probably isn't. It's always okay to exit a website, game, or conversation that makes you uncomfortable.

Remember: People Online May Not Be Who They Say They Are

Not everyone tells the truth online. Never agree to meet someone you've met online without a parent's permission and presence.

Think Before You Post

Before sharing pictures or writing comments, ask yourself, "Would I be okay if my teacher or family saw this?" If the answer is no, don't post it!

online SAFETY WORD FIND

P	O	N	L	I	N	E	L	E	A	O	C
H	W	T	E	G	K	K	P	Z	W	D	V
L	E	S	A	F	E	T	Y	H	Y	O	F
A	B	W	C	F	F	H	V	N	O	W	Y
C	S	P	E	R	S	O	N	A	L	N	M
O	I	A	R	E	P	S	U	R	E	L	E
M	T	T	W	B	H	H	Q	T	S	O	E
P	E	D	C	C	L	I	C	K	C	A	R
U	K	M	P	A	S	S	W	O	R	D	O
T	H	B	A	N	T	A	B	L	E	T	S
E	Z	M	L	I	N	A	E	T	E	B	E
R	M	L	G	I	L	F	S	T	N	R	W

WORD BANK

ONLINE
CLICK
PASSWORD
DOWNLOAD
EMAIL
WEBSITE
SCREEN
COMPUTER
PHONE
TABLET
SAFETY
PERSONAL

SCREEN TIME MATH

1. If someone spends **2** hours a day on their phone, **1** hour a day on the computer, and **2** hours a day on a tablet, how many total hours of screen time did they have that day?



2. If they spend that same amount of time on screens each day for a whole week (7 days), how much screen time will they have for that week?

3. If they spend that same amount of time on screens each week for a whole year (52 weeks), how much screen time will they have for that year?

POLICE DOGS



Brave Pups Who Help Keep Us Safe

Police dogs, also called K9s, are specially trained dogs that help police officers do important jobs. These amazing animals use their super noses, strong bodies, and big hearts to protect people.

A police dog's nose is thousands of times better than a human's. Police dogs often live with their handler—they're partners at work and at home! When they retire, police dogs often stay with their families to relax and play.

Police dogs are more than just pets—they are real heroes with wagging tails. If you see one, remember they're on the job and need to focus. If you want to say hi, always ask their handler first. These dogs are always ready to protect and serve, just like their human partners.

Police dogs start their training when they're still young, usually around 1 to 2 years old. They learn how to listen to commands like "sit," "stay," and "search." Then they go through special training based on what their job will be. Here are some things they may be trained to do:

- Find missing people in forests or cities, or after disasters
- Sniff out illegal drugs or bombs using their powerful noses
- Help catch suspects who are running away
- Protect their police handler, who is also their best friend!

What Breeds Are Police Dogs?

Not just any dog can be a police dog. Most are strong, smart, and full of energy. Here are some common police dog breeds:



German shepherds are very smart and easy to train.



Belgian Malinois are fast and strong.

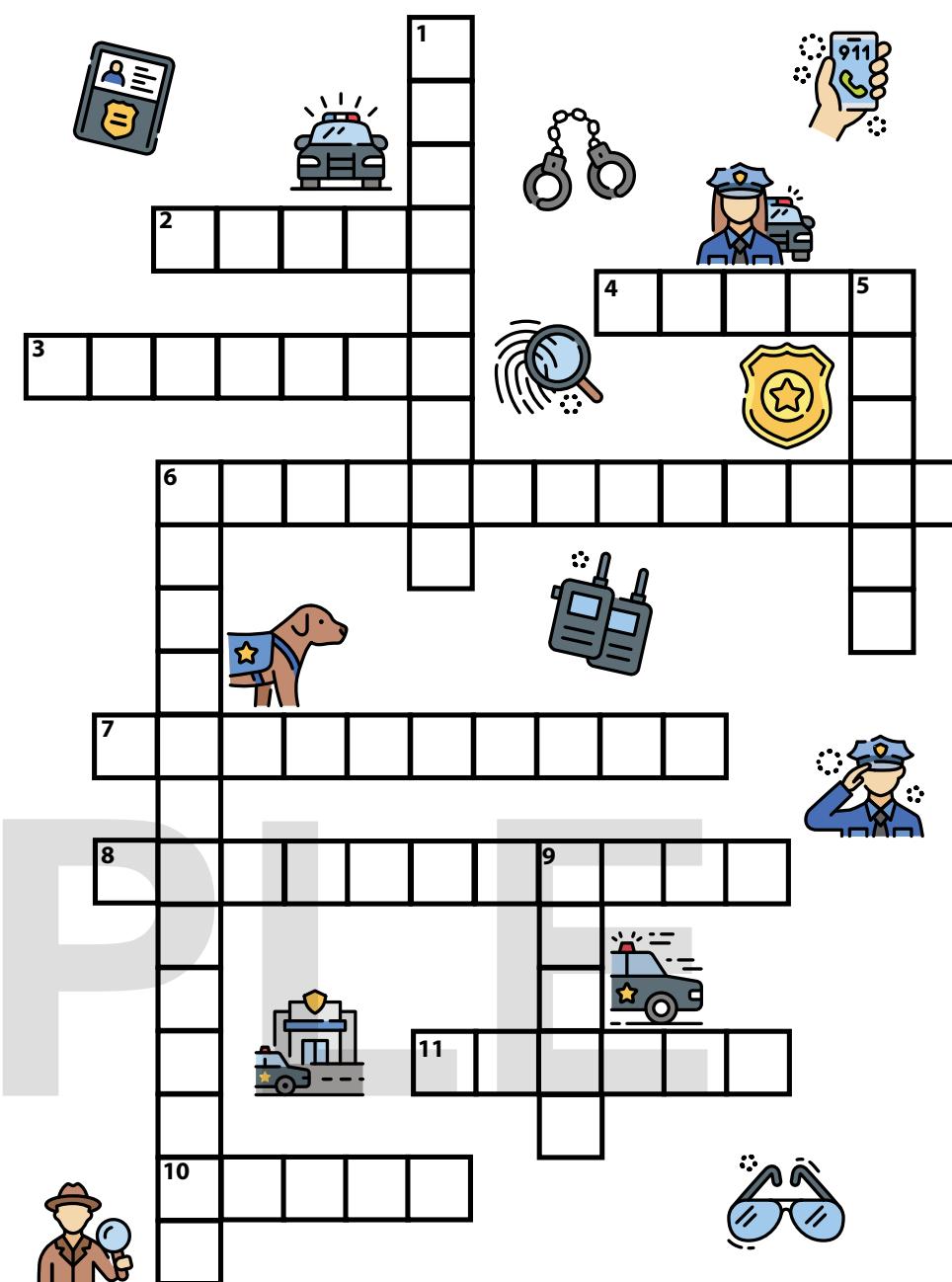


Labrador retrievers are great at sniffing!



Bloodhounds have amazing noses for tracking.

Let's Review!



ACROSS

2. A shiny object on a police uniform. It might be shaped like a shield or a star.
3. You can see these on the sleeves of a police uniform, or on the American flag.
4. If you find them at a crime scene, you might just solve the case.
6. This book is all about them and the important work they do.
7. If they're not driving in a car, you might see police riding one of these.
8. Don't walk alone. Have a friend keep you company. That's called the _____.
10. Police officers use this to talk to each other.
11. Keeping your password a secret is a great way to stay safe _____.

DOWN

1. The science and detective work police use to solve crimes.
5. A police officer's main job is to give people _____.
6. Police have a fancy uniform for events and a _____ for when they're working in the community.
9. Police dogs have an excellent sense of _____.

ANSWERS

POLICE OFFICER
FORENSICS
BADGE
SAFETY

STRIPES
PATROL UNIFORM
RADIO
MOTORCYCLE

CLUES
BUDDY SYSTEM
ONLINE
SMELL

