**MODULE 2**

**Class Title**: My Digital Footprint

**Aim of the lesson**: To understand that the information we put online leaves a digital footprint or ‘trail’

**Category**: Popular Culture

**Lesson Format**: Activity, Power point presentation and discussion

**Materials and Preparation**

Cut apart the Digital Trail Squares (document attached in class resources), keeping the elephant and mouse squares separate.

Be prepared to lay out each animal’s “tracks” in different locations in the classroom after the lesson introduction.

Copy the ‘Animal Tracks’ student handout, one for each group of four.

Greeting to students*) Assalam alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh*

*(Taooz) Aoodhubillahi min AsShaytanir Rajeem*

*(Tasmiyah) Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem*

*(Du’a) Rabbish rahli sadri wa yassirli amri wahlul uqdatum millisani yafqahu qawli* (Surah At Ta-Ha 20: Verse 25-28)

**Learning Objectives:**

*Students will be able to :*

* Learn that they have a digital footprint and that information from it can be searched, copied and passed on; seen by a large number of invisible audience and that it can be permanent.
* Recognize that people’s online information can be helpful or harmful to their reputation and image.
* Consider their own digital footprints and what they want their own to be like in the future.

*Slide 1-2:*

The age we live in is the age of technology and we almost cannot live , breather and talk without accessing internet every few hours if not minutes. It is said that home is where Wi-fi connects automatically and this relays how technology has become inseparable from our daily lives. Let’s discuss the implications of internet usage and whether there is a downside to it or not and if so, then how can we use it more responsibly. In order to understand that, it is pivotal that we comprehend what a digital footprint is?

Put on a pair of boots and walk through soft snow. No snow around? Mud works too. Or get your shoes wet and walk along a paved sidewalk. If you want a more permanent imprint, wet cement might be a better choice. But if you really want to leave a mark, well you may already have one: your digital footprint!!

In other words, a digital footprint is a trail of data you create while using the Internet. It includes the websites you visit, emails you send, and information you submit to online services. A "passive digital footprint" is a data trail you unintentionally leave online.

**Your digital footprint paints a picture of who you are.**

*Slide 3:*

Let us do an activity to paint a clearer picture of how a digital footprint paints a vivid picture of who you are.

(teacher gives handouts to students and conducts activity attached)

I hope it is crystal clear now that a digital footprint is the information about you on the Internet. In the activity, it is concluded that Mizzle’s footprint is pretty small and does not reveal private or personal information. Electra’s is large and contains information that could make her unsafe or upset others.

Therefore, appropriate information to post would be one’s interests, hobbies, first name; while some of the inappropriate details include full name, address, hurtful information about others.

*Slide 4 :*

Every email, post, photo and click you make online leaves a trail. Even by reading this article, you’re adding to your ever-growing string of breadcrumbs online. It’s permanent, it follows you for life and it’s not going anywhere—it’s your digital footprint.

*Slide 5:*

You should care because whether or not your information is shared intentionally, it’s being gathered by advertisers, employers and companies from which you shop. This information is called your digital footprint—and it’s becoming more important than ever in today’s digital economy.

“Your digital footprint is data that’s created through your activities and communication online. This can include more passive activities, such as if a website collects your IP address, as well as more active digital activities, such as sharing images on social media,” says Natalie Athanasiadis, owner of **[Ormi Media](https://www.ormimedia.com.au/)**.

“You should keep in mind that anything you place online, whether text or images, has the potential to be available online forever.”

Forever is a long time, which means it’s all the more important to keep on top your digital footprint

*Slide 6:*

Your digital footprint is often used to obtain personal info about you, such as demographics, religion, political affiliations or interests. Information could be [**gathered using cookies**](https://www.ftc.gov/site-information/privacy-policy/internet-cookies), which are small files websites store on your computer after your first visit to track user activity.

Cookies also allow you to hold items in a shopping cart, store preferences or login information and make personalized suggestions based on your location or interests. Your digital footprint is used by advertisers to [**target you with customized ads**](https://www.internetsociety.org/tutorials/your-digital-footprint-matters/). For example, if you look at a pair of shoes online, you may later see ads for those shoes or similar items.

Your digital footprint is also used by employers—both current and prospective. It is especially important to care for your digital footprint if you’re job hunting, as Googling is now a central part of the hiring process.

“An online background check by recruiters and employers is a common practice these days,” says Mehmood Hanif, founder of [**The Signature Post**](http://thesignaturepost.com/). “In worst-case scenarios, individuals could lose their job offer if employers come across something inappropriate.”

*Slide 7:*

* **Google yourself**: Take inventory of what’s out there. Search for your name every few months, so you’re cognizant of the information others have access to.
* **Protect your personal data**: Don’t disclose your personal address, phone number, passwords or bank card numbers. Consider using a nickname instead of your real name.
* **Keep login info under lock and key:** Never share any of your usernames or passwords with anyone.
* **Think before you post:** Never put a temporary emotion on the permanent internet. Anger is temporary; online lasts forever. Pause before you post: Think twice, post once, advises Sue Scheff, online defamation survivor and author of [**Shame Nation**](http://shamenationbook.com/).
* **Nix the pics:** Any photo you post could be dug up some day. Limit your sharing of questionable images. Fifteen minutes of humor is never worth a lifetime of potential humiliation, adds Scheff.

*Slide 8-9:*

If the trail of our digital footprint remained in this life only, I would say that the damage caused due to recklessness and irresponsibility is great but not catastrophic. However, we find out from authentic narration of *ahadith* and Quranic verses that this trail goes beyond the realms of physical world and onto the metaphysical one. As muslims , we believe not just in what our eyes can see but on what they can’t due to the fact that it has been conveyed to us by Allah swt the Almighty through the Messenger (pbuh).

The two recording angels are called Raqib and Atid that record human speech: each records faithful or blasphemous speeches, and also records a human's deeds. They are considered as the *Kiraman Katibin.*(honourable scribe) so whatever we do in this *dunya*, good or bad, is recorded and saved.

*Slide 10:*

Allah, may He be glorified and exalted, is a fair judge who does not pass judgement over His slaves on the basis of what He knows of them in terms of disbelief or faith; rather He has all their deeds recorded and appoints His noble angels to be witnesses over them and to record all that they do, good or evil, in their record of deeds. He will give them their records on the Day of Resurrection to testify over them. He appoints the angels, the noble scribes, as witnesses over His slaves to testify to their deeds, so that none of His creation will have any reason to doubt their testimony, proof will be established against them, and no one will have any grounds to argue against the judgement of the Lord of the Worlds

“Man does not utter any word except that with him is an observer prepared [to record]”

[Qaaf 50:16-18].

So the big question is ‘What are we leaving behind?’ “what are the angels recording on our behalf ?’ ‘What story of our life will the indelible footprint tell on the Day of Reckoning?’

*Slide 11(hidden):*

*Slide12-13:*

Our social media accounts , our posts on Instagram, twitter and Facebook reflects who we are. Ask yourself today, does it show that you are a responsible, conscientious Muslim who weighs the outcome and thinks before he posts something. Is the comment kind or hurtful? Is it necessary to comment on everything and get into baseless arguments which intensify into a full blown virtual fight? At times, people make things up to attract ‘likes’ and to portray a ‘happening’ lifestyle and create abnormal and impractical standards for others. The illusion of an oh so perfect life is deeply rooted in lies and deception and we should be able to perceive the difference between reality and illusion.

*Slide 14:*

There are several ways in which you can secure your privacy to some extent in these digital billboards. These 5 P’s for a positive and protected digital print are:

* **Privacy:** Every website on internet has privacy terms, including social media sites. It is important that you read and understand those privacy terms. For instance, what content can be shared with a third party and whether you can delete your account permanently from the website etc. Other than that, keep your password and personal details private.
* **Profile:** use your first name only and do not give away any personal information.
* **Protect:** You need to protect yourself and others from cyberbullying but at the same time one must know the difference between a joke and bullying. Cyber bullying is when someone, stranger or acquaintance, repeatedly posts or comments on another person about something that they don’t like or is generally offensive. Ideally, one should inform adults and not bully back as that aggravates the situation.
* **Permission:** Makesure youhave permission to view and share information online.
* **Positive:** Make sure that the information you share is positive. The good old Triple filter test for speech rings true for virtual talk as well. Is it true? Is it good? Is it useful?? If not, then its not a positive digital footprint.

*Slide 15:*

In short, our digital footprints roam farther and wider in an electronic ether , where our personal information resides virtually for anyone to see. Writing on the wall is clear for anyone who cares to read: There is no foot too small that it cannot leave its imprint in this world. Choose wisely!

(Du’a for end of a gathering) *Subhana Rabbika Rabbul Izzati ‘amma yasifun wa salamun ‘alal mursaleen, walhamdulillahi Rabbil ‘alameen*

(Parting salutation to students) *Assalam alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh*