

Section 4—Consumer Issues and Education

Title of Lesson/Subject: *Spyware Lesson Plan*

Prepared by:

Contact Information

E-mail address:

Phone:

Time Allotment:

One class period

Grade Level:

High school students

ND Standards Competencies:

Key Economic Concepts:

Brief Description:

Learner Objectives:

Upon completion of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Define spyware and adware
- Explain how spyware and adware work
- Determine different ways to combat spyware and adware

Introduction:

Materials Needed:

- * The Wall Street Journal Classroom Edition for November 2004
- * Computers with Internet access

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed:

Lesson Outline:

Give the students the following questions to answer and have the students read the article, “PC Hijackers”, either in the newspaper or online. (15 minutes)

1. Explain what spyware and adware are and how they work? How are they different from computer viruses?
2. List the four major forms of spyware. List the main reasons each one is used.
3. What steps can you take to help protect yourself against spyware?

Have a class discussion about the article and the questions you gave them to answer. I have listed some pertinent topics to discuss. (15 minutes)

- Have the students define spyware and adware
- Have the students compare spyware to a computer virus
- Ask the students why spyware and adware are used
- Ask the students their opinion on spyware and if there should be laws for such activities.
- Have the students share their answers regarding the major forms of spyware and the objectives of each one

- Have the students share their answers on the steps you can take to protect your self from spyware
- Ask for any students personal experiences with spyware and computer viruses

Divide the class into groups of about 4 and have them do a little research on the Internet. Have each group research one of the following topics and briefly report their findings to the class. (25 minutes)

- Spam
- Computer viruses
- Adware
- Spyware

Resources:

Activities:

Application/Assignment:

Evaluation Plan:

The students will be evaluated on their participation in the class discussion. I would explain to them at the start of the assignment that they receive a participation grade for contributing to the class discussion and the group activity. You could also have them write or type out the answers to the questions to hand in.