

Name _____

Defending Your Digital Fortress: Protecting Your Computer from Malware and Viruses

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. (Sample response) Yes, a friend of mine once clicked on a suspicious link in an email and ended up with ransomware on their computer. They had to pay a ransom to recover their files. This could have been prevented by not clicking on the suspicious link and by having antivirus software in place.
2. (Sample response) Individuals can strike a balance by using password managers that generate and store complex passwords. This makes it convenient to use strong passwords without the need to remember them all. It's also important to enable two-factor authentication for added security.
3. (Sample response) If I suspect my computer is infected, I would disconnect it from the internet to prevent further potential harm. Then, I would run a full scan with my antivirus software to detect and remove any malware. After that, I would change all my passwords, update my operating system and software, and ensure my firewall is active.
4. (Sample response) It's important to stay vigilant and cautious because cybercriminals sometimes disguise malware as legitimate software or files. Even seemingly trustworthy sources can unknowingly distribute malware. Being cautious helps protect your computer from potential infections and ensures the safety of your data and digital environment.

