

Name _____

Beware of the Phishermen: Safeguarding Against Phishing Attacks

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Answers may vary. Sample steps: I would first carefully examine the email address of the sender to see if it matches my bank's official domain. Then, I would avoid clicking on any links in the email and instead, independently visit my bank's website by typing the URL in my browser. I would also contact my bank's customer support to verify the message's authenticity.
2. Falling victim to a phishing attack can result in the theft of personal information, such as passwords, credit card numbers, and social security numbers. Attackers may use this information for identity theft, unauthorized financial transactions, or other malicious activities, leading to financial and personal security risks.
3. It is crucial for individuals to educate themselves and others about phishing attacks because awareness is the first line of defense against cybercrimes. Knowledge about phishing tactics can help individuals recognize and avoid potential threats, protecting their personal and financial information.
4. Answers may vary. Sample story: Once, I received an email that claimed to be from a popular online shopping site, asking me to update my payment information urgently. I found it suspicious because I hadn't made any recent purchases. Instead of clicking on the link, I logged in to my account directly through the official website and found no issues. It turned out to be a phishing attempt, and I reported it to the website's customer support to warn others.

