



Fake News





What is Fake News?

'**Fake** News' grew in notoriety in 2016 during the US Presidential Elections although it has been around for a long time...probably as long as politics has been around.

It is what it says in the title: news that is fake/not true/made up.

It works by shocking people into reading it in the same way that gossip works.

Think about how gossip or rumours work...

- Are they usually totally true?
- How many people are usually involved – a few or many?
- Is it nice for the person being gossiped about? Why?
- Why might someone gossip or spread rumours?

Think About It



Why Do People Make It?

Fake News is usually created to grab people's attention; those who make it want as many readers as possible:

- to make money by advertising to all the people that look at the page/article;
- to create **propaganda** to make a person, argument or cause look better;
- simply to trick people.

Why would these Internet headlines make people click on them to visit the page?

'Woman in Sheffield Lost 2 Stones in 2 Weeks'

'You Won't Believe This about Your Local MP'

'New Evidence Found for Life on Venus'.

Think About It



Be Alert...The Top 5 Rules For Spotting Fake News:

1. If it sounds too amazing or too shocking to be true – it probably is.

2. Has the story been on the main news channels, the [broadsheet newspapers](#), the school website or other sources you know you can trust?

3. Check ‘facts’ on trusted websites. For example, checking space ‘facts’ on NASA’s website.

4. Do an Internet search of the news title or website along with the word ‘fake’ or ‘[scam](#)’. It may tell you from trusted sites that it’s a well-known fake news story.

5. Look at who is producing the story – is it a story about how bad one political party is, being produced by supporters of the opposition?

Design and make a poster to remind people to think twice when reading news stories that look shocking or amazing.

Make It

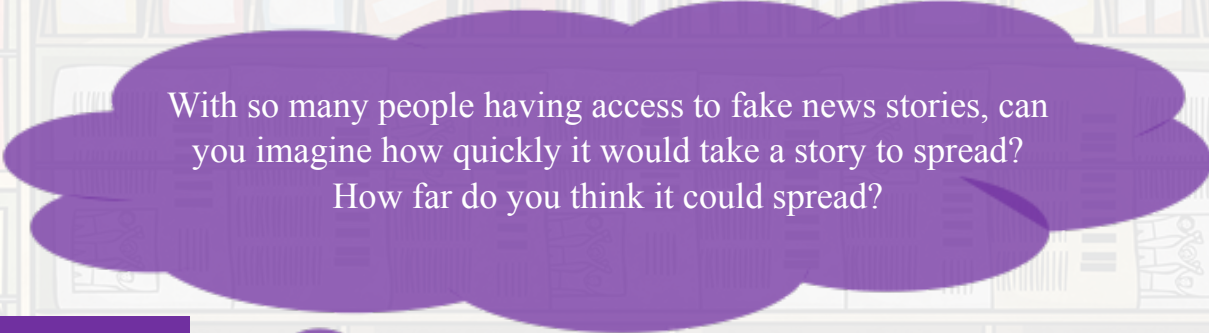


Facts and Figures

- Research by 'BuzzFeed' found that during the last 3 months of the 2016 US presidential campaign, fake news had more shares and engagement than the trusted news source CNN and the New York Times.

- By the end of 2016, there were 1.86 billion users on Facebook, making it a prime target for fake news.

- In 2016, the BBC tracked down teenagers in [Macedonia](#) who were creating fake news, claiming it was making them profits of thousands of Euros per day!



With so many people having access to fake news stories, can you imagine how quickly it would take a story to spread?
How far do you think it could spread?



Think About It



Funny Fake News

There are some people – mainly websites, but some magazines and TV programmes too – that purposely create fake news or **satire** in order to be humorous.

Discuss It

- How is this fake news OK?
- What's different about it?

Then compare your ideas with the ideas below...

Compare It

Some Ideas:

- This fake news is funny.
- Some of the 'fakeness' is very obvious.
- They don't seriously pretend to be real.
- It is checked for legal accusations.
- Mostly harmless.

Research It

Find out the name of a magazine, TV programme and website that produce funny fake news.



Find Out More

Watch It And
Read It

Watch videos and read what Newsround have to say:

Check It

Use the Activity Sheet to see what you have found out from the Newsround website and this PowerPoint.



Advice from the 70s?

Although Fake News might seem like a new idea, the concept has been around for quite a while. You might have heard the theme tune to the satirical programme ‘Mock the Week’, it is a song called ‘News of the World’ from 1978 by pop group ‘The Jam’ and the words almost sound like they have been written for today’s fake news...

Discuss It

Listen, find or write down the lyrics to work out what the writers of the song are trying to say



Glossary

Broadsheet Larger size of newspapers, usually held in **Newspapers** higher regard than ‘tabloid’ newspapers.

Fake Not real / made up.

Macedonia A country in South Eastern Europe

Propaganda Information given to promote one side of an argument. Usually used in political battles or to promote a specific cause.

Satire making fun of topical issues or politics.

Scam something that is meant to mislead or trick people.

Click on the word to return to the previous page.



Activity 3: Types of False News

1. Working in pairs, look at the picture and key facts below about a kite festival in Colombia.

	<p>Key Facts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• People make preparations before flying their kites in the annual Wind and Kite Festival.• It will take place in Villa de Leyva town of Boyaca, Colombia on August 19, 2017.• Victor Sanchez, the mayor of Villa de Leyva says: "It's Chinese people who invented kites. We hope we can invite Chinese kite-lovers to the next festival"
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2. Below are four false headlines that we have created. Working in your pairs, match each headline to the correct category of false news.

Headline 1

INDIAN KITE FEST: Preparations begin for the annual kite festival in Gujarat, India.

Headline 2

SAVE THE FESTIVAL BY VOTING FOR SANCHEZ!
Mayor supports annual kite festival stating: "It is critical for the economy!"

Headline 3

BREAKING NEWS: Pest control department states that bat infestation is getting out of control!

Headline 4

SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY: New research proves that working with bats will make you turn into one.

Satire
Intentionally false and usually humorous

Mistake
An honest mistake or rumour

Misleading
Bias, misleading information or spin

Fake news
Completely made up for personal gain

Fake News...What do You Know?

1. Name three news producers you could trust.

2. Name two reasons that people create fake news?

3. Name three things that would make you suspicious about news being fake.

4. Name two or more ways that you can check if a story is real or not.

5. Name two ways that gossip is similar to fake news.

6. How is satire different from fake news?

7. What is propaganda?

8. Can you believe photos? Why?

Teenager on trial after refusing to pay fine for feeding a chip to a pigeon

Fake or real?



News.
WISE

Two-headed sharks found

Fake or real?



**News.
WISE**

Mysterious 7-foot creature spotted in Argentina

Fake or real?



News.
WISE

Police in Germany rescue man chased by baby squirrel

Fake or real?



News.
WISE

Canadian zoo fined after taking bear out for ice-cream

Fake or real?



**News.
WISE**

Elderly woman trains 65 cats to steal from her neighbours

Fake or real?



News.
WISE

Camel survives after losing half of its body

Fake or real?



News.
WISE

Man with the longest
fingernails gets them
cut off after 66 years

Fake or real?



**News.
WISE**

Teenager or
refusi
feed
pigeon

REAL

Fake or real?



**News.
WISE**

Two-headed
found

FAKE

Fake or real?



**News.
WISE**

Mysterious
creators
Arguments

FAKE

Fake or real?



News.
WISE

Police in Germany
rescue baby
REAL

Fake or real?



News.
WISE

Canadian zero
after t
for i

REAL

Fake or real?



**News.
WISE**

Elderly woman says
65 cat
her name

FAKE

Fake or real?



**News.
WISE**

Camel surviving
losing

FAKE

Fake or real?



**News.
WISE**

Man with the...
finger...
cut o...

REAL

Fake or real?



**News.
WISE**

MYSTERIOUS SEVEN-FOOT CREATURE SPOTTED IN ARGENTINA

A strange creature has apparently been photographed in Argentina. It looks like a combination of a camel, rabbit and horse. It walks on all fours and could be seven feet tall. There is only one photograph of this animal.



CAN YOU TRUST THIS STORY?

Question the source

Who reported on this story?

Altered Dimensions

What type of company are they?

Website about UFOs, ghosts and aliens

What other sorts of stories have they published?

High-speed UFO captured on video

Ghost caught on security camera in Japan

Have you heard of this company before?

Do they seem trustworthy?

Check the coverage

Who else reported on this story? What did they say?

Outerplaces, a science fiction website:
Mysterious ‘half-human half-animal’ captured on video

Newsweek, an American news magazine:
Half-human, half-animal ‘dogzilla’ threat is latest internet hoax

The Daily Mirror, UK news company:
Weird news - Huge 7ft beast described as ‘half human, half animal’

Snopes, a fact-checking website:
False: The creature is actually a manipulated image based on designs for a ‘Harry Potter’ werewolf

**BASED ON ALL THE EVIDENCE,
DO YOU THINK THIS STORY IS REAL OR FAKE?**

MAN WITH THE LONGEST FINGERNAILS GETS THEM CUT OFF AFTER 66 YEARS

The man who holds the Guinness World Record for the longest fingernails has finally had them cut off after 66 years. The man is called Shridhar Chillal and is from India. His longest nail was nearly two metres long.



CAN YOU TRUST THIS STORY?

Question the source

Who reported on this story?

Sky News

What type of company are they?

UK news broadcaster - TV news and website

What other sorts of stories have they published?

Roads flooded and trains cancelled as heavy rain hits evening rush hour

Thomas Cook travel company collapses

Have you heard of this company before?

Do they seem trustworthy?

Check the coverage

Who else reported on this story? What did they say?

CBBC Newsround, a TV news programme and website for children:
Guinness World Record holder Shridhar Chillal finally has his nails cut

The Guardian, a UK news company:
Nails in the coffin: man with world's longest fingernails finally cuts them off

BBC News, a UK news broadcaster:
Man with world's longest fingernails has them cut off

Guinness World Records, the official company for record breaking facts:
Owner of world's longest nails has them cut after growing them for 66 years

**BASED ON ALL THE EVIDENCE,
DO YOU THINK THIS STORY IS REAL OR FAKE?**

Answers

1. Name three news producers you could trust.
Any three from (or others): BBC, Newsround, ITV, Channel 4, CNN, BuzzFeed, Broadsheet newspapers, University or school websites, your teacher. (All these apart from on April Fools' Day!)
2. Name two reasons that people create fake news?
Any two from: making money, making people vote a certain way, just for fun, making people look at adverts.
3. Name three things that would make you suspicious about news being fake.
Any three from: too shocking/amazing to be true, it's from a political party about the opposing side, it's not from a trusted site, it's not on the TV news.
4. Name two or more ways that you can check if a story is real or not.
Any two from: ask a trusted adult, check on trusted news sites, TV news or broadsheets.
5. Name two ways that gossip is similar to fake news.
Any two from: It's not all totally true, many people are involved, there is a 'victim'.
6. How is satire different from fake news?
Satire/funny fake news is not trying to be real, it is funny and usually harmless.
7. What is propaganda?
Putting out information that puts one side of an argument or political party in a bad light.
8. Can you believe photos? Why?
No – photoshopping is so clever nowadays. See for example models in magazines.



Detective



Name _____

Find a fact you didn't know before
(Remember to make sure it's reliable!)

Think about how being online is making you feel and tell someone you trust

Check 3 sources to see if something is reliable/true

Find an article or video online where a person is giving their opinion

Share something useful online to friends/family

Use a search engine and spot the sponsored results

Laugh out loud at something online

Find an image which has been edited

Spend some time researching a topic you're interested in with an adult you trust