



Digital

Fake News for all?

Fake news is not a new phenomenon! What is new, though, is that today fake news spreads very quickly thanks to digital media, which allows anyone who is online to send out any message!

Fake news spreads even quicker than true news, so no matter if you are ever online, they might have an impact on you. So you better get some tricks with your buddy to uncover fake news!

Discipline area	Civic education
Topic	Language, Relationships
Estimated time	1h 30'
Learning goals	<p>If you go through the whole unit, you will learn about</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strategies to detect fake news • the reasons why people write fake news • the impact of fake news

Warm-up

Have you ever come across information that turned out to be false? It can be online but also offline, it can be a news which many people got or something someone told you...

Think about a specific situation and describe it to your buddy.

Now try to remember: How did you recognise it? How did you feel?

Finally: Why do you think it has been sent out? Discuss with your buddy.

Learn

Give a look to the poster 'how to spot fake news'. It presents the main strategies on how to identify fake news.

Discuss each strategy to detect fake news which is presented in the poster: what are the challenges to use them and how can they be overcome?

Do you have further strategies in mind?

HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS

- CONSIDER THE SOURCE**
Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.
- READ BEYOND**
Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?
- CHECK THE AUTHOR**
Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?
- SUPPORTING SOURCES?**
Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.
- CHECK THE DATE**
Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.
- IS IT A JOKE?**
If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.
- CHECK YOUR BIASES**
Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.
- ASK THE EXPERTS**
Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.

IFLA
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions
Web thanks to www.FactCheck.org

Create

1

Let's swap roles! **Each of you writes one true and one fake news** on a sheet of paper. Don't tell each other which is which! Read each other's news and try to guess! What elements of the news have helped you to guess or have deceived you?

Share your news with your peers or at home. See if they can tell which news is real, and which is fake. At the end reveal to them how they could have noticed.

2

If you now have more points than the ones on the poster, **create yourself a postcard** with your tip to identify fake news.

Reflect

Finally, discuss the following questions with your buddy:

Was it difficult to write the fake news? Why?

What do you think the consequences of the news you created could be?

How do you feel about being responsible for sending out news which misleads others, maybe offend or endanger them?