

## How to spot fake news activity

### Activity:

1. Read the following guidance on spotting fake news
2. Find two surprising stories and use the chart to decide whether they are fake or real.

**It is preferable to let learners choose their own stories but the following may be helpful if there is not sufficient time:**

<https://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus/links.html>

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/octopus-tree-of-oregon>

<https://www.catscratchreader.com/2012/4/1/2918438/cows-with-wings-spotted-hovering-over-bank-of-america-stadium>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bielefeld> Note this a real city which is claimed to be fake by conspiracy theorists.

### Guidance on spotting fake news

If you want to try to make sure that you don't get caught out by fake news, there a few things you can look out for.

Ask yourself:

- Has the story been reported anywhere else?
- Is it on the radio, TV or in the newspapers?
- Have you heard of the organisation that published the story?
- Does the website where you found the story look genuine? (meaning it doesn't look like a copycat website that's designed to *look* like another genuine website)
- Does the website address at the very top of the page look real? Is the end of the website something normal like '.co.uk' or '.com', and *not* something unusual, like 'com.co'?
- Does the photo or video look normal?
- Does the story *sound* believable?

If the answer to any of these questions is 'no', you might want to check it out a bit more, before spreading the word.

**From:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/38906931>

<b>Fact checking chart</b>		<b>Trustworthy or not</b>	
<b>Story:</b>	<b>Link:</b>		
<b>What should I check?</b>	<b>Evidence</b>	✓	✗
Has the story been reported anywhere else?			
Is it on the radio, TV or in the newspapers? Have you heard of the organisation that published the story?			
Does the website where you found the story look genuine? (meaning it doesn't look like a copycat website that's designed to look like another genuine website)			
Does the website address at the very top of the page look real? Is the end of the website something normal like '.co.uk' or '.com', and not something unusual, like 'com.co'?			
Does the photo or video look normal?			
Does the story sound believable?			
Conclusion			
Reason			