

Fact-Checking Detectives

Cyber Safety Lesson Plan (10-12 years old)

This lesson equips students with the skills to recognise misinformation and fake news online. They will learn how to fact-check information and the importance of being critical media consumers.

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Explain why people might spread misinformation and fake news.
- Apply strategies for fact-checking online information.

Duration


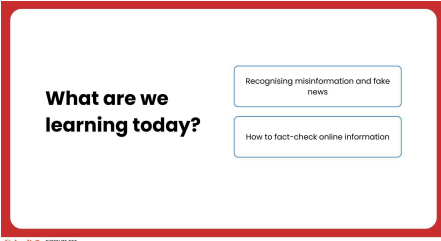
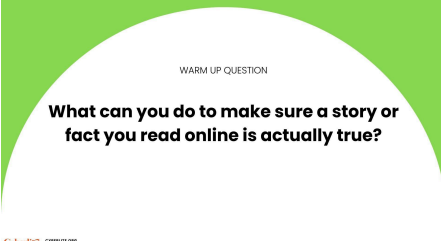

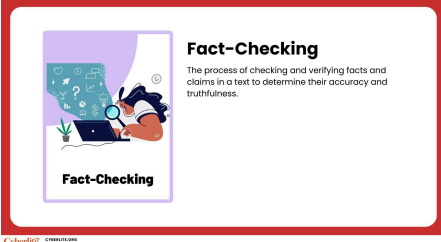
30 minutes

Key Concepts


- **Misinformation:** False or inaccurate information, especially that which is spread deliberately to deceive.
- **Fact-Checking:** The process of checking and verifying facts and claims in a text to determine their accuracy and truthfulness.

Internet Independent Framework

The learning objectives in this workshop are aligned with the Digital Media Literacy pillar of the Internet Independent Framework. Visit cyberlite.org for more information.

LESSON SLIDE	WHAT TO SAY OR DO
 <p>Slide 1</p>	<p>Welcome students to the lesson and briefly explain that today's lesson is about becoming fact-checking detectives to spot fake news.</p>
 <p>Slide 2</p>	<p>Share the lesson objectives of what students will be learning today.</p>
 <p>Slide 3</p>	<p>Ask students how they can verify the truthfulness of online stories or facts. Question them about the reliability of online information.</p>
 <p>Slide 4</p>	<p>Explain misinformation as false or inaccurate information spread to deceive. You may choose to prepare some age-appropriate examples that are local to your community.</p>
 <p>Slide 5</p>	<p>Discuss the process of checking and verifying the accuracy of online claims and why it's essential.</p>

Have you ever believed something that turned out to be fake?



When we go online to look for information, it might not always be accurate. That's because online information can come from anyone, anywhere, and may not always be true.

Unlike books in a library, online information is not always checked by experts.

Slide 6

Encourage students to share if they've ever believed something online that turned out to be untrue.

What is misinformation?



Misinformation is sometimes known as **fake news**. It is false or inaccurate information that is spread to deceive others. It can spread quickly online and cause confusion if believed.

Slide 7

Explain the concept of misinformation, or fake news, and its impact.

Why do people spread fake news?

People can spread fake news or misinformation either unintentionally or on purpose.

On Purpose



Example: Knowingly spreading a rumour about a classmate when you know it's not true.

Unintentional



Example: Forwarding a message without checking if the information is true.

Slide 8

Illustrates the reasons behind the spread of fake news. Elaborate on the examples and challenge students with an open discussion on why some people might spread fake news on purpose, while others might do it unintentionally.

Fact-checking for the Truth




Not everything we see online is true! Fact-checking means verifying if information or news is true by checking reliable sources and evidence.


Slide 9

Explain that fact-checking simply means looking for trusted sources to verify the information you've come across.


How to Fact-Check




Check the information with multiple trusted sources, like news outlets and educational websites.



Think about who's saying it. Are they an expert on the subject?



Use fact-checking tools that can help you fact-check information online.



Ask an adult like a parent or teacher if you're not sure.

Slide 10

Share practical tips for verifying information, such as consulting trusted sources and considering the credibility of the speaker.

Think Before You Share

Before sharing something on social media or with your friends, ask yourself if it seems believable.



Make sure you think about the information critically and fact-check it first.

Slide 11

Teach students to question the believability of information before sharing it with others as part of being a responsible digital citizen.

ACTIVITY

Fact or Fake News?

Become fact-checking detectives and find out the truth!

Slide 12

Conduct an activity where students become detectives to determine the truthfulness of various headlines.

What You'll Need

- Computer or device with internet access

Instructions

In pairs, investigate each news headline to determine if it is fact or fake news. Make sure you jot down the sources you've used to make your decision!

Slide 13

Students will need a computer with internet access for the following activity. If not, you may choose to conduct the activity together as class.

Instruct the students that they will be given a list of headlines. Working in pairs, they should go online to find credible sources and fact-check each headline.

EXAMPLE

Let's investigate this example as a class.

"The Great Wall of China is the only man-made structure visible from space."

Slide 14

Try this example together as a class.

Go to a search engine (e.g. Google, Bing) and type in the headline. Talk through your thought process out loud as you sift through the results, highlighting credible sources and unreliable sources.

The answer for this example lies in the NASA page:
<https://www.nasa.gov/image-article/great-wall/>

INVESTIGATE THIS!

Now it's your turn. Decide if these headlines are facts or fake news.

1. Chocolate was once used as money by the ancient Mayans.
2. Pizza Hut sets the world record for the largest pizza ever made.
3. School in Australia cancels school due to emu invasion.
4. Jonathan, the oldest living tortoise, is over 190 years old.
5. Students in South Korea get \$100 for every A on their report card.

Slide 15

Invite students to conduct their own fact-checking mission with these five headlines. Remind them to jot down the links or sources they've used to make their conclusions.

QUESTION ONE

Chocolate was once used as money by the ancient Mayans.

FACT!

Slide 16

“Chocolate was once used as money by the ancient Mayans.”

This is a factual statement. The sources presented on this slide are from Newsweek and Science.org.

QUESTION TWO

Pizza Hut sets the world record for the largest pizza ever made.

FACT!

Slide 17

“Pizza Hut sets the world record for the largest pizza ever made.”

This is a factual statement. The sources presented on this slide are from CNN and The Telegraph.

QUESTION THREE

School in Australia cancels school due to emu invasion.

FAKE NEWS!

Slide 18

“School in Australia cancels school due to emu invasion.”

This is fake news. Students should have realised there is no news coverage of this headline.

QUESTION FOUR

Jonathan, the oldest living tortoise, is over 190 years old.

FACT!

Slide 19

“Jonathan, the oldest living tortoise, is over 190 years old.”

This is a factual statement. The sources presented on this slide are from The Washington Post and the Smithsonian Magazine.

QUESTION FIVE

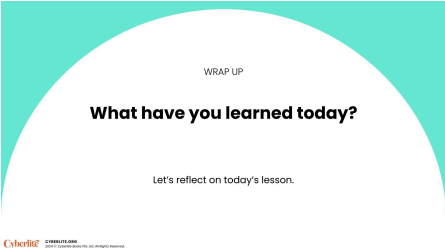
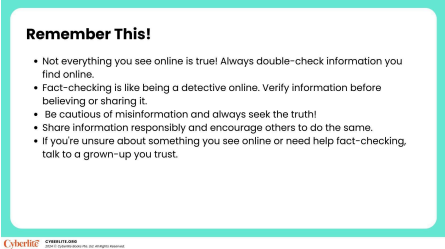
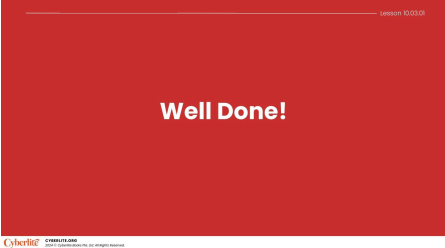
Students in South Korea get \$100 for every A on their report card.

FAKE NEWS!

Slide 20

“Students in South Korea get \$100 for every A on their report card.”

This is fake news. Students should have realised there is no news coverage of this headline.

 <p>WRAP UP</p> <p>What have you learned today?</p> <p>Let's reflect on today's lesson.</p> <p><small>CyberLITE CYBERLITE.ORG © 2019 CyberLITE Books Pte. Ltd. All Rights Reserved.</small></p> <p>Slide 21</p>	<p>Recap the lesson and encourage reflection on the importance of being cautious with online information.</p>
 <p>Remember This!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not everything you see online is true! Always double-check information you find online.• Fact-checking is like being a detective online. Verify information before believing or sharing it.• Be cautious of misinformation and always seek the truth!• Share information responsibly and encourage others to do the same.• If you're unsure about something you see online or need help fact-checking, talk to a grown-up you trust. <p><small>CyberLITE CYBERLITE.ORG © 2019 CyberLITE Books Pte. Ltd. All Rights Reserved.</small></p> <p>Slide 22</p>	<p>Emphasise the key takeaways, reminding students not everything online is true and the importance of fact-checking and responsible information sharing.</p>
 <p>Well Done!</p> <p><small>CyberLITE CYBERLITE.ORG © 2019 CyberLITE Books Pte. Ltd. All Rights Reserved.</small></p> <p>Slide 23</p>	<p>Congratulate the students for their thoughtful participation and remind them to fact-checking any information they come across online.</p>