

Part A: The Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus

Visit a website about the endangered Pacific Northwest tree octopus (<http://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus>) to find out more about it. Make notes in the grid below:

Geographical Location	
Habitat	
Average Size	
Skin Colour	

Part B: Evaluation- Based on your reading and the website itself, do you think the Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus is real? Why or why not?

Look carefully at the Northwest Pacific tree octopus site. It is a good example of a spoof site that is very well put together. Look especially at the following elements, and discuss with your partner how they make the site more or less convincing:

- **Style & Layout:**
 - the web address (or 'URL' - 'uniform resource locator')
 - the title of the homepage
 - the layout, font and colours the images and map
 - the use of hyperlinks
 - links to other research
 - the style of the language and vocabulary used
- **Content:**
 - content in the tabs (the sections under the title, e.g. FAQs - Frequently Asked Questions; Sightings; Media; Activities)
 - the 'scientific' information on the homepage
 - content in the News and Blog entries (in the column on the left)
 - links to the webpages of organisations such as the World Conservation Union, the World Wildlife Fund, and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (all in the last paragraph on the homepage)
 - the quotes in the top right corner of the homepage

Part C: Practice

Visit the websites below. Using the information from the handout, decide if the information is fake or real news; be prepared to share your reasons.

Website	Fake News	Real News
https://www.thebeaverton.com/2017/12/panic-grips-vancouver-massive-flaming-ball-appears-sky/		
https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/vaquita		
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/dec/04/venezuela-to-launch-cryptocurrency-to-combat-us-blockade-maduro-says		
http://www.ctvnews.ca/health/patient-s-do-not-resuscitate-tattoo-presents-ethical-dilemma-for-doctors-1.3705964		
http://thenewyorkevening.com/2017/09/12/nasa-doomsday-map-shows-elite-preparing-armageddon/		
http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/climatologist-not-cancelling-winter-despite-warmer-than-normal-forecast-1.3706316		
https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/talkingtech/2017/12/04/youtube-hire-more-reviewers-screen-videos-after-backlash-over-kids-content/921981001/		
http://www.bbc.com/news/health-42199200?ocid=socialflow_facebook&ns_mchannel=social&ns_campaign=bbcnews&ns_source=facebook		
Choose your own:		

Part D: Reflection

1. Did you find evaluating the websites and news articles difficult or easy? Why?

2. Why is it important to think carefully evaluate the news you consume?

