

Fact or Fiction?

Discerning “fake news” from the truth

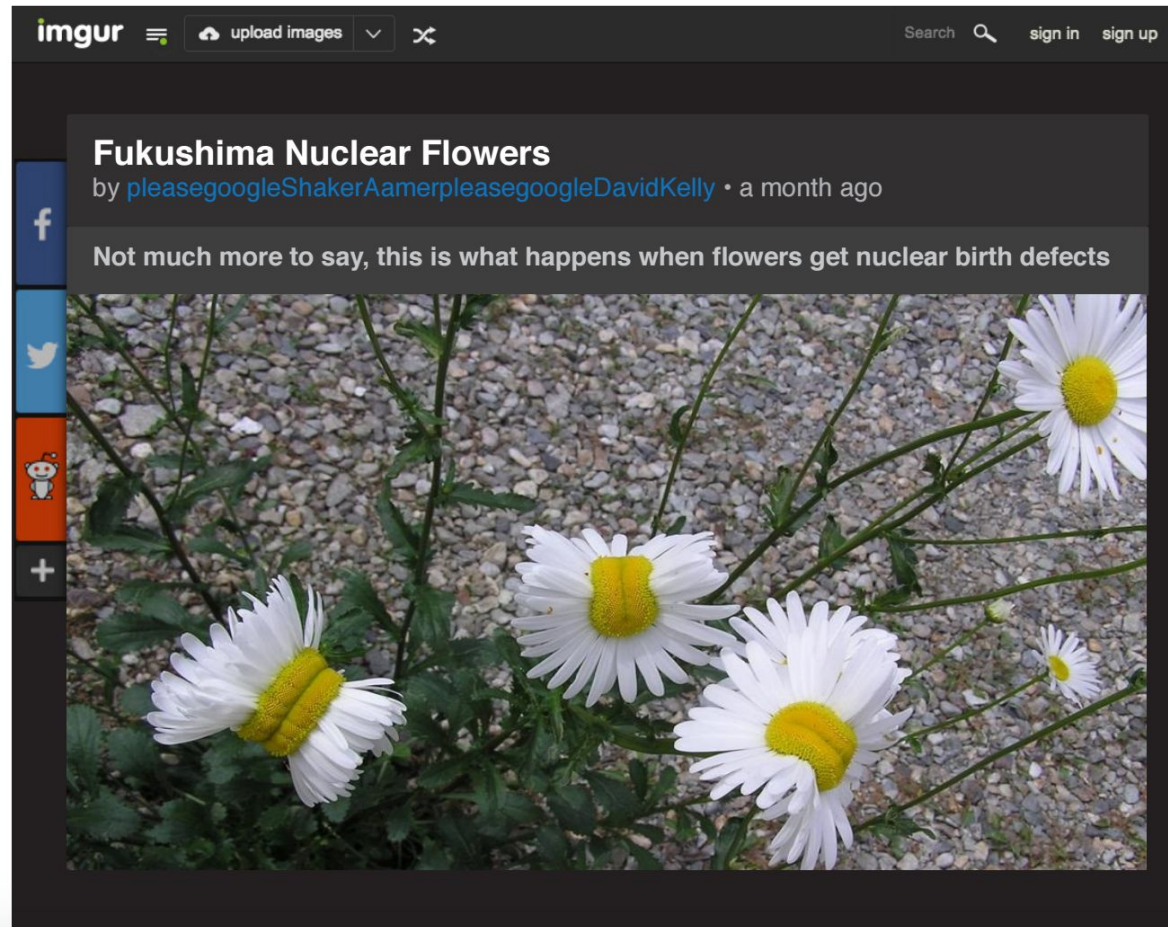
**March 2017 - Middle School Practicum Lesson
Ms. Shaba Martinez**

Go to:

www.peardeck.com/join

Code: will be given in class


On March 11, 2011, there was a large nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Japan. This image was posted on Imgur, a photo sharing website, in July 2015.



The image is a screenshot of an Imgur post. At the top, the Imgur logo and navigation options like 'upload images', 'Search', 'sign in', and 'sign up' are visible. The post title is 'Fukushima Nuclear Flowers' by user 'pleasegoogleShakerAamerpleasegoogleDavidKelly', posted 'a month ago'. Below the title is a caption: 'Not much more to say, this is what happens when flowers get nuclear birth defects'. The main image shows several white daisies with yellow centers growing from a gravelly ground. The daisies appear normal, but the caption implies they are 'nuclear flowers'.

What is your reaction to this photo and the text provided with the image?

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Does this post include strong evidence to explain WHY these flowers look this way?

FALSE

<http://www.snopes.com/nuclear-mutant-daisies/>

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Learning Targets

Students will be able to ...

- Understand how to identify fake news
 - Utilize skills acquired to discern truthful from false information
-

**What happens when fake
news spreads?**

**Fake News
stories that
were shared
MILLIONS of
times**

- **Thousands of fraudulent ballots for Clinton uncovered**
- **Megyn Kelly fired after she endorsed Clinton**
- **NBA cancels 2017 All-Star game in North Carolina (posted in April)**
- **Elizabeth Warren endorsed Bernie Sanders**
- **Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke is a KKK member**

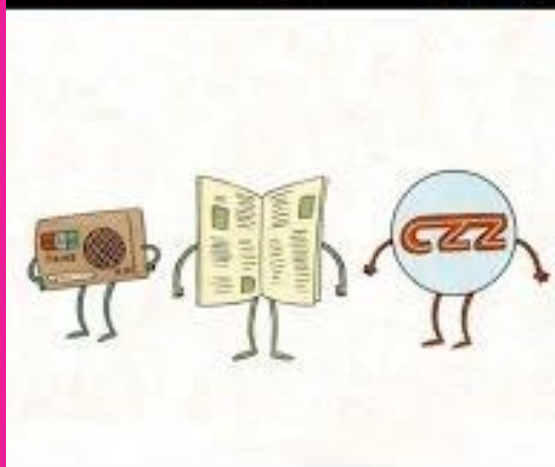
What can you do to make sure the news stories, photographs and other sources you read are truthful?

**Before sharing
or spreading any
information:**



Ask yourself ...

- **Does this seem believable on a most basic level?**
 - **Is the website reputable?**
 - **Is this news reported elsewhere?**
-



HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR NEWS



5 Things to Do to Avoid Passing on Fake News

READ



- Don't just read the headline!
 - READ the entire article
 - Decide if it's believable
 - Do more research if needed
-

Look at the Date



- Is this recent news?
 - Did it happen long ago, but is just being re-shared now?
-

Google It!



- Can you find a second or third **credible** source?

Look it up on Snopes.com



- Snopes does the research for you
 - Snopes will tell you if the rumor is true or false
 - Still do some research on your own!
-

Know your satirical websites



- *Satire = using humor to criticize and expose foolishness*
- The Onion is satire, NOT REAL
- Check realorsatire.com
- Many sites are intentionally creating false news for humor. Know how to spot it!
- [List of satirical sites](#)

NASA Launches First Cordless Satellite

CAPE CANAVERAL, FL—In what experts are calling a breakthrough achievement that is poised to revolutionize American space exploration and telecommunications, NASA announced Friday it has successfully launched its first cordless satellite into orbit.



Lucrative New Oil Extraction Method Involves Drilling Directly Into Gas Stations

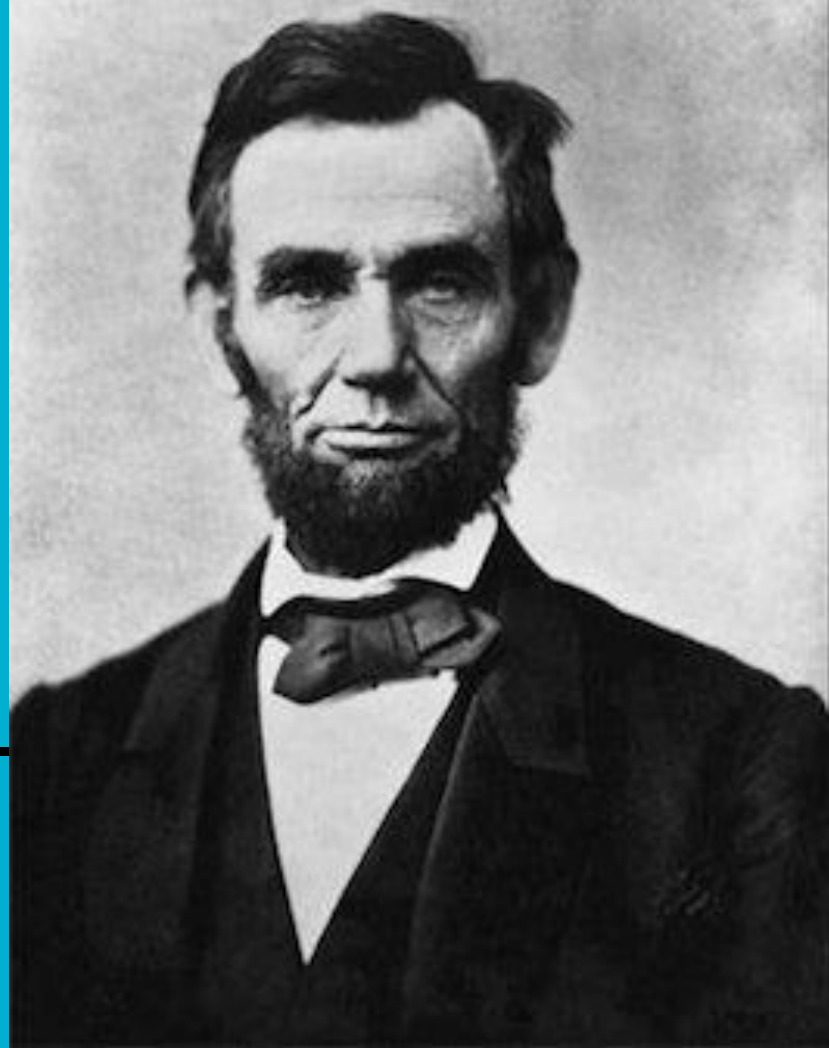
IRVING, TX—Hailing it as a rapidly replenishable and easily accessible fuel source, ExxonMobil revealed a lucrative new oil extraction method Friday that involves drilling directly into gas stations.



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Scientists Continue Developing Alternative Energy Sources For Americans To Waste

Tech Trends reporter Aaron Vaughn takes a look at Green Forward, a startup creating new green technology for Americans to blindly disregard.



“Don’t believe everything you read on the Internet just because there’s a picture with a quote next to it.”

—Abraham Lincoln

5 Things To Do To Avoid Passing on Fake News on Social Media

- * Read beyond headlines.
- * Look at the post date.
- * Google it.
- * Look on Snopes.com.
- * Know satirical sites.

Sites & Tools for Fact-Checking What You Read

- [FactCheck.org](https://factcheck.org)
- [Snopes.com](https://snopes.com)
- [Politifact.com](https://politifact.com)
- [Washington Post Factchecker](https://www.washingtonpost.com/fact-checker/)
- [The Washington Post Intersect | What Was Fake on the Internet This Week](https://www.washingtonpost.com/intersect/)
- [Gizmodo | Six Easy Ways to Tell if That Viral Story Is a Hoax](https://www.gizmodo.com/six-easy-ways-to-tell-if-that-viral-story-is-a-hoax)



BREAKING NEWS CONSUMER'S HANDBOOK

1. In the immediate aftermath, news outlets will get it wrong.
2. Don't trust anonymous sources.
3. Don't trust stories that cite another news outlet as the source of the information.
4. There's almost never a second shooter.
5. Pay attention to the language the media uses.
 - *"We are getting reports"*... could mean anything.
 - *"We are seeking confirmation"*... means they don't have it.
 - *"[News outlet] has learned"*... means it has a scoop or is going out on limb.
6. Look for news outlets close to the incident.
7. Compare multiple sources.
8. Big news brings out the fakers. And photoshoppers.
9. Beware reflexive retweeting. Some of this is on you.

ON **[THE MEDIA]**

Vet a Story using 6 “Consumer Questions”

- **Who** made this?
- **How** was this made?
- **Why** was this made?
- **When** was this made?
- **What** is this missing?
- **Where** do I go from here?



Now it's your turn!

**Is this site truthful and
credible?**

<https://allaboutexplorers.com/explorers/columbus>

Resources

<https://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/10/02/skills-and-strategies-fake-news-vs-real-news-determining-the-reliability-of-sources/>

<https://newseumed.org/activity/believe-it-or-not-putting-the-consumers-questions-to-work/>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/use-these-7-tips-to-tell-real-news-from-fake-us_58a4dbf8e4b0boe1e0e2064b

<http://www.spencerauthor.com/2016/12/fake-news-is-a-real-problem-heres-how-students-can-solve-it.html/>

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1RappmCVocA2W_ggeiJ1orSjOKmHAOYbvbcycqOIJhio/edit?usp=sharing

<https://sheg.stanford.edu/upload/V3LessonPlans/Executive%20Summary%2011.21.16.pdf>

<http://www.snopes.com/nuclear-mutant-daisies/>

<http://www.awesomelyluvvie.com/2014/06/5-things-fake-news-social-media.html>