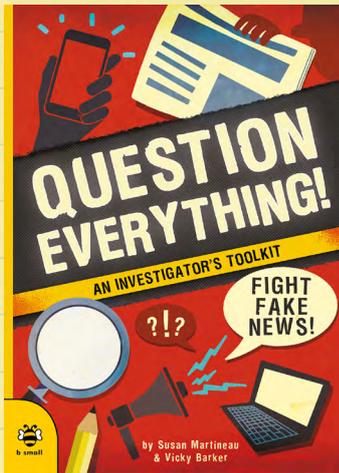


LEARN HOW TO ... QUESTION EVERYTHING!



Question Everything!
by Susan Martineau
illustrated by Vicky Barker
978-1-912909-35-3

Activities for
home or school

Build your own investigator's toolkit with award-winning author and illustrator team Susan Martineau and Vicky Barker!



b small

“The OECD’s PISA 2018 discovered that only 1 in 10 students in OECD countries could distinguish between fact and opinion.”

**AMAZING
STATISTIC!**

Do you believe the statistic on the first page?

Write down some questions you might want to ask before you accept it as fact.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Did you find out what 'OECD' and 'PISA' stand for? Do they sound like organisations you can trust?

Learning to ask these sorts of questions is called 'critical literacy'. It means that you are building up your ability to 'criticise' something that you are reading or looking at (it applies to pictures too!). Criticising something, or being critical, doesn't just mean that you say horrible things about it. It means that you question it and find out if it is true.

With thanks to Dr Ann Alston from UWE Bristol who inspired this activity!



FAKE NEWS QUIZ!

The author of this book, Susan Martineau, has put together a quiz to show you how easy it is to read facts that are true, untrue and partially true. At first you think you know whether they are fact or fiction but it takes some sleuthing to uncover the truth.

QUESTION ONE

Is a meteorite that turns out to have originated from Earth and not from outer space called a meteorwrong?

QUESTION TWO

Are, on average, 100 million sharks killed by humans per year but only 100 humans are killed by sharks per year?

QUESTION THREE

Which of these is an official website ending that is only available to people with the right permission?

- a) .org b) .co.uk c) .gov.uk d) .book

QUESTION FOUR

What is confirmation bias?

- a) A special kind of religious ceremony.
b) A test you can take to see how good you are at spotting fake news.
c) A way of looking at news and information to find facts that agree with what you already think is true.

QUESTION FIVE

Fish rain is real. Is that right? Can it actually rain fish?



ANSWER ONE

Correct! Even though it sounds like a made-up word, meteorwrog is used widely, if in a slightly jokey way!

Source: This word can be found on a lot of university websites. The most reassuring place we saw it was on NASA's website in an activity about identifying meteorwrongs.

ANSWER TWO

Wrong! The first number is accurate but the number of humans killed by sharks around the world over the last decade is a lot lower, being on average four people per year.

Source: For the number of sharks killed, the statistic comes via a *National Geographic* article about a report called *Marine Policy* by Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada, which has contributions from experts from five different universities in Canada and The United States. This statistic is also quoted on the Greenpeace website. For the number of people killed by sharks, we found various numbers all under 10 but, because the number is so low, just one fatal attack can change the average year by year. *The International Shark Attack File* maintained by the Florida Museum confirmed the global average was four in 2019, which is the most recent statistic.

ANSWER THREE

The only one you need to apply for is d) ".gov.uk", which is for organisations linked to the public sector, such as local government, fire service or police. Anyone can buy any of the other endings for their website. A website called 'truefacts.org' might sound official but it could be owned by someone who doesn't know anything!

Source: The government website confirms whether you are eligible for a .gov.uk website and outlines the application process. 123 Reg is a company that registers your website domain name for you and on their website they confirm that .org, .co.uk and .book are available to anyone.



ANSWER FOUR

c) is the correct answer.

Source: In this case we went straight to the online site for *Encyclopedia Britannica*. The definitions are excellent on this site and they are backed up by articles written by experts in the subject. Psychologists have conducted many studies that show we tend to look for, or interpret, information so that it fits in with what we already believe is true. That means we may be making assumptions about what is true without even realising we are being biased in this way. We might be missing vital information!

ANSWER FIVE

Partly true! Fish falling out of the sky have been reported all over the world and over many years. But is it actually raining fish or have they ended up in the sky in some other way? Check our source information to see what scientists think.

Source: We saw a 'fish rain' story on the BBC news channel and followed a link to a BBC article which quoted a source from the Met Office (the UK's national weather service). This spokesperson said that in thundery weather it is possible for small whirlwinds to suck up fish from bodies of water, carry them miles away and then dump them down again! It's not quite rain, but looks like it. We also corroborated this by looking at the USA's Library of Congress website which had a fascinating article about it, quoting many other scientists.

