



The
Global Citizenship
and
Multilingual
Competences
Toolkit



Teaching module

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Unit 5: Hunting for fake news through critical reading



Handouts

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Handout A

Six strategies to spot fake news



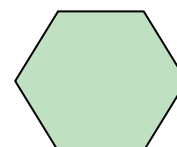
With a classmate, carefully read the webpage below and rank the tips in the article from the most to the least important/useful to detect fake news. 1 = most useful; 6 = least useful.

Website: <https://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/fake-news.htm>

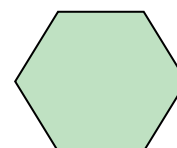
STRATEGIES

YOUR RANKING

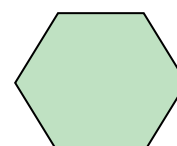
Develop a critical mindset



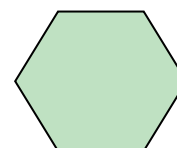
Check the source



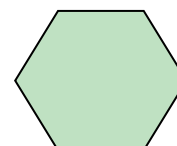
See who else is reporting the story



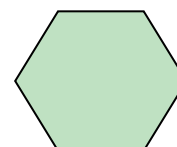
Examine the evidence



Don't take images at face value



Check that it "sounds right"



Handout B

7 days of total darkness announced by NASA



Please, read the following article carefully.



NASA has announced that the Earth will go through a period of 7 days of total darkness at the end of 2026, most probably in the second half of October. This astronomical event involving Venus and Jupiter is extremely rare, and it last happened half a million years ago.

Charles Bolden, who was recently appointed to head of NASA by President Biden, issued a 2000-page report explaining this rare event to the White House.

The report explains that Venus and Jupiter will engage in a close parallelism involving only a 1-degree separation. This will cause Venus to shine 1000 times brighter than Jupiter. The light from Venus will heat up the gases on Jupiter, causing a reaction and releasing an unprecedented amount of Hydrogen into Space. This Hydrogen gas will make contact with Earth's sun, causing a massive explosion on the Sun's surface, raising its temperature by 9,000 degrees Kelvin in an instant. The heat will cause the Sun to dim to a bluish colour, which will be perceived as night time on Earth, similar to the light of the Moon. This phenomenon will last for 7 days, with the Sun soon recovering its normal state quite rapidly, in about 4 minutes.

(Source: "NASA" by Stefano.Petraz CC BY-NC-ND 2.0. <https://wordpress.org/openverse/image/e90f5b16-5b50-4f03-a213-8dd247d4b93e>)

Unit 5. Handout C

The critical reader's checklist



Which of the following features in the NASA article make you think that it is fake news?
Work with a classmate and choose all that apply.

- ☐ 1. The article is enjoyable.
- ☐ 2. The language leaves no room for uncertainty.
- ☐ 3. The article has an impressive headline.
- ☐ 4. The article is well written.
- ☐ 5. The article is full of rhetorical language.
- ☐ 6. The article contains inaccurate or completely false information about events or persons mentioned.
- ☐ 7. There are a lot of stereotypes in the article.
- ☐ 8. The content of the article is presented in a categorical way.
- ☐ 9. The article is divided into several paragraphs.
- ☐ 10. In the article there are phrases that include exaggerated language.
- ☐ 11. The author uses specialist or technical language in the article.
- ☐ 12. The content of the article is not purely informative but has a negative (or positive) connotation in order to emotionally engage the reader.