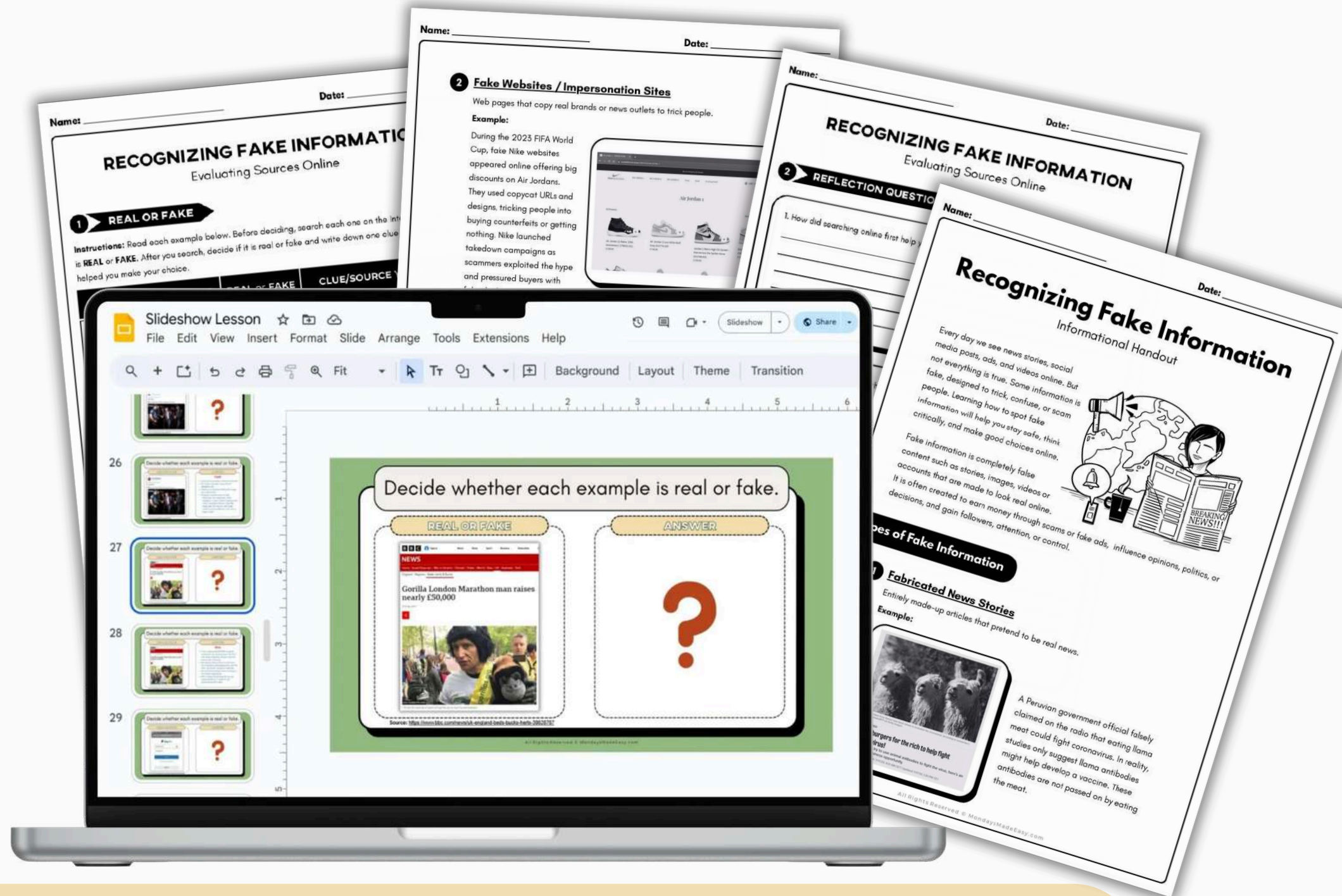


Fake News and Misinformation Lesson

This resource promotes digital citizenship and media literacy skills that are essential to navigating today's online information landscape



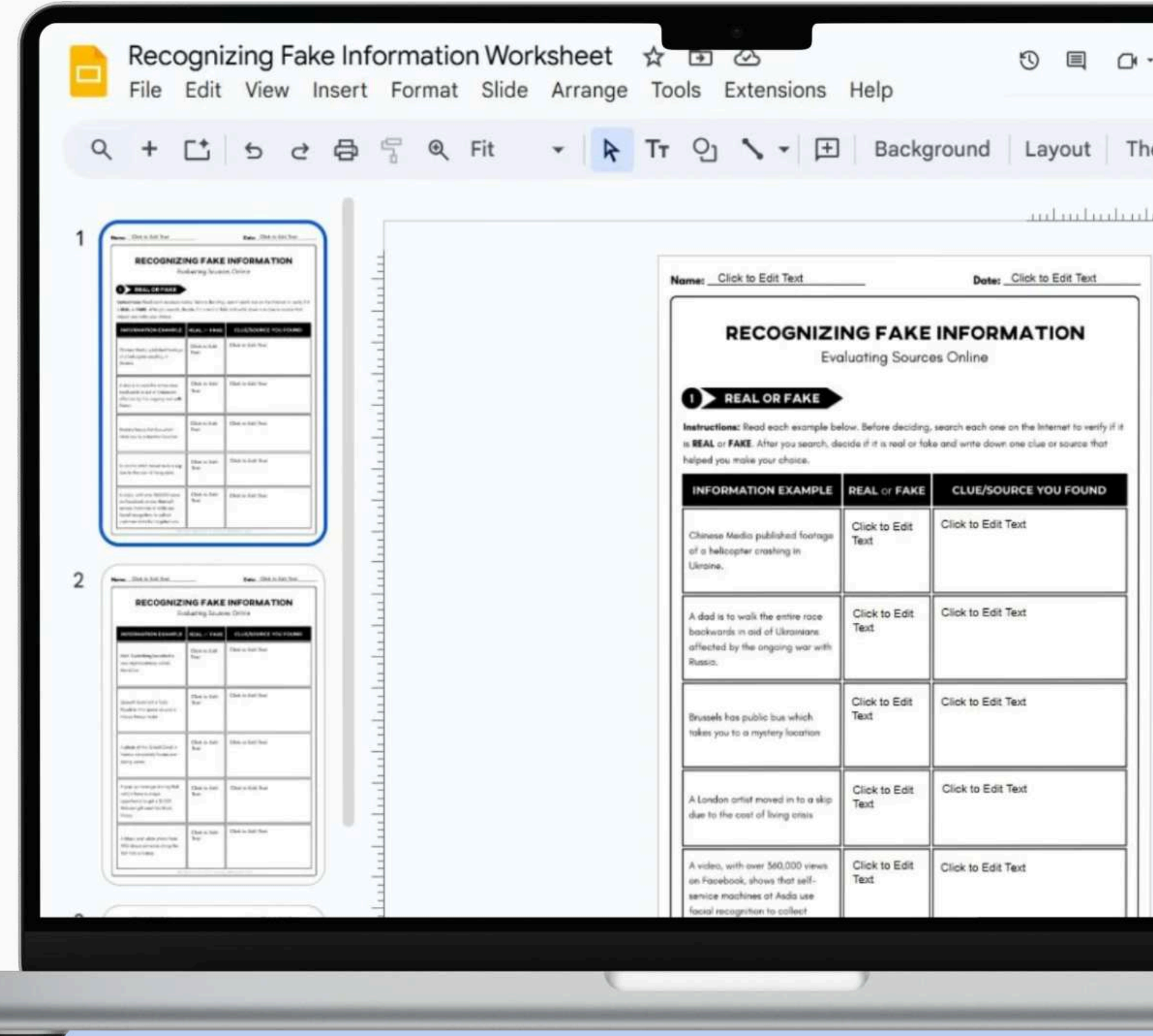
- **Introduce essential media literacy concepts** through a slideshow lesson that clarifies how misinformation spreads and why verification matters.
- **Guide students in evaluating credibility** by analyzing authorship, publication details, bias, and emotionally charged language.
- **Challenge learners to investigate viral claims** using research and evidence, strengthening fact-checking habits they can apply beyond the classroom.

Help students distinguish credible sources from fake news

PURCHASE HERE

Included with this resource:

- ✓ Recognizing Fake Information **Slideshow Lesson**
- ✓ Mini-Lesson **Informational Handout**
 - Introduce critical thinking questions for evaluating credibility
- ✓ Misinformation **Identification Activity**
 - Read several unusual or viral claims and investigate their accuracy through online research
- ✓ **Reflection Questions**
- ✓ Detailed **Answer Key**
- ✓ **Teacher Instructions** for how to use these resources



Includes Digital Version for Google Drive®

Recognizing Fake Information Slideshow Lesson

This overview explains what fake news and misinformation are, how they spread, and why it's important to verify online content

Decide whether each example is real or fake.

REAL OR FAKE



Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-56888888>

ANSWER



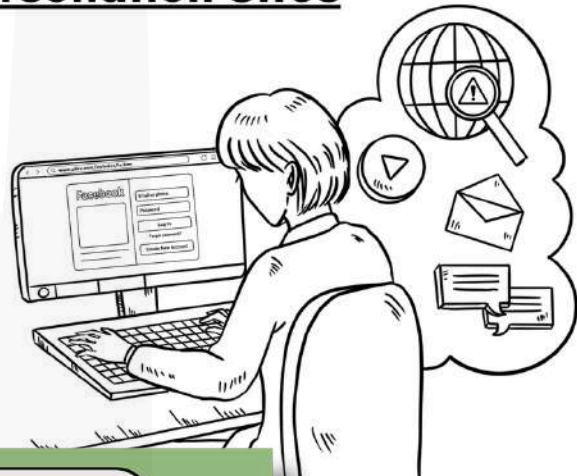
RECOGNIZING FAKE INFORMATION

Evaluating Sources Online

TYPES OF FAKE INFORMATION

Fake Websites / Impersonation Sites

Web pages that copy real brands or news outlets to trick people.



EXAMPLE OF FAKE INFORMATION

4. Deepfakes (Video/Audio)

This video seemed like Tom Cruise had joined TikTok, but the clips turned out to be a series of deepfake videos, which manipulate a person's likeness using visual effects and apply it to someone else's.



Source: <https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSDAWwPf/>

? WHICH IS FAKE?



This is fake news – urine from astronauts on the ISS is recycled into drinking water.

This is true and can be found in numerous news publications. The shocked couple from France thought they were paying for a Savannah cat (a rare breed of domestic cat).

Mini-lesson Informational Handout

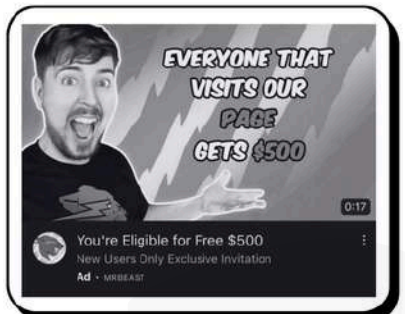
This resource supports students as they begin examining real-life claims in digital environments.

Name: _____ Date: _____

6 Fake Ads / Giveaways

Online promotions or prizes that don't exist and are designed to scam users.

Example:



On YouTube, scammers used MrBeast's photos in fake ads. Instead of giveaway scams, they ran in-feed video ads that showed up in search results and the YouTube Home feed.

Ways to Spot Fake Information

- 1. Check the Source** - Look at the site and URL - is it a real publisher?
 - **Check:** Domain name, About page, contact info, site design and ads.
 - **Red flags:** Weird spellings in the URL, lots of pop-ups, no "About" or contact, or a site that mimics a real outlet.
 - **Action:** Open the homepage, click "About," and search the publisher name + "reviews" or "scam" for a minute.
- 2. Check the Author** - Who wrote it? Find the byline and check their credentials.
 - **Check:** Named author, bio, linked profile (LinkedIn), other articles by the same person
 - **Red flags:** No byline, only a generic email, authors with no online presence, or suspicious bios (made-up institutions).
 - **Action:** Click the author name or Google the name + publication to confirm they are real and credible.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

4 Deepfakes (Video/Audio)

AI-made videos or voices that make someone appear to say or do things they never did.

Example:



This video seemed like Tom Cruise had joined TikTok, but the clips turned out to be a series of deepfake videos, which manipulate a person's likeness using visual effects and apply it to someone else's.

5 Fake Social Media Accounts or Bots

Profiles that pretend to be real people or organizations to spread false information.

Example:

Scammers made fake LinkedIn and Twitter accounts pretending to be celebrities. For example, Keanu Reeves doesn't use social media but fake profiles tried to connect with people, and Monica Lewinsky exposed a blue-check impostor online.



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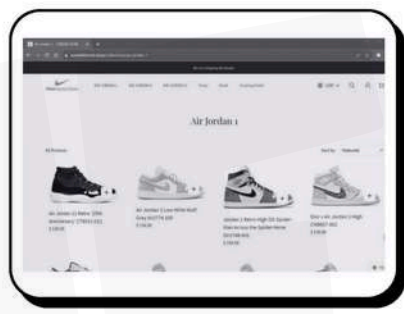
Name: _____ Date: _____

2 Fake Websites / Impersonation Sites

Web pages that copy real brands or news outlets to trick people.

Example:


During the 2023 FIFA World Cup, fake Nike websites appeared online offering big discounts on Air Jordans. They used copycat URLs and designs, tricking people into buying counterfeits or getting nothing. Nike launched takedown campaigns as scammers exploited the hype and pressured buyers with fake deals.



3 Doctored or Fabricated Images

Photos or pictures altered with editing software or created by AI to look real but actually show something false.

Example:




At first, viral images showed Paris covered in trash, which seemed real because garbage workers had gone on strike earlier in the year. But the pictures of the Eiffel Tower and Louvre surrounded by waste were actually AI-generated. They came from a TikTok video with over 450,000 views, and AFP confirmed the artist used Midjourney to create them.

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Recognizing Fake Information

Informational Handout



Every day we see news stories, social media posts, ads, and videos online. But not everything is true. Some information is fake, designed to trick, confuse, or scam people. Learning how to spot fake information will help you stay safe, think critically, and make good choices online.


Fake information is completely false content such as stories, images, videos or accounts that are made to look real online. It is often created to earn money through scams or fake ads, influence opinions, politics, or decisions, and gain followers, attention, or control.

Types of Fake Information

- 1 Fabricated News Stories**

Entirely made-up articles that pretend to be real news.

Example:



A Peruvian government official falsely claimed on the radio that eating llama meat could fight coronavirus. In reality, studies only suggest llama antibodies might help develop a vaccine. These antibodies are not passed on by eating the meat.

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Assess details such as the publication source, date, author credentials, and use of emotional or misleading language

Misinformation Identification Activity

Students read several unusual or viral claims and investigate their accuracy through online research

Tasks include identifying photoshopped images, clickbait pop-ups, and misleading headlines

Name: _____ Date: _____

RECOGNIZING FAKE INFORMATION

Evaluating Sources Online

1 REAL OR FAKE

Instructions: Read each example below. Before deciding, search each one on the Internet. Is it **REAL** or **FAKE**. After you search, decide if it is real or fake and write down one clue or source that helped you make your choice.

INFORMATION EXAMPLE	REAL or FAKE	CLUE/SOURCE YOU FOUND
Chinese Media published footage of a helicopter crashing in Ukraine.		
A dad is to walk the entire race backwards in aid of Ukrainians affected by the ongoing war with Russia.		
Brussels has public bus which takes you to a mystery location		
A London artist moved in to a skip due to the cost of living crisis		
A video, with over 360,000 views on Facebook, shows that self-service machines at Asda use facial recognition to collect customer data for targeted ads.		

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RECOGNIZING FAKE INFORMATION

Evaluating Sources Online

2 REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How did searching online first help you decide if each example was real or fake?

2. Which example surprised you the most, and why?

3. What strategies will you use in the future to check if information online is true or false?

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RECOGNIZING FAKE INFORMATION

Evaluating Sources Online

INFORMATION EXAMPLE	REAL or FAKE	CLUE/SOURCE YOU FOUND

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INCLUDES ANSWER KEY!