

## ACTIVITY 6.2: Online Verification Practice

### 1) Evaluate the Source

Use your checking skills (Wikipedia search, web search) to investigate the reputations of the following sources. Make notes on what you find in the space provided.

Source:	Notes:
www.macleans.ca	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The official website of <i>Maclean's</i>, a Canadian news magazine founded in 1905.</li> <li>• Circulation of over 200 000.</li> <li>• Known for its reporting on politics, popular culture, and current events.</li> <li>• Considered a reliable source of factual reporting.</li> </ul>
www.thebeaverton.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canadian comedy/satire news publication.</li> <li>• May lead to the spread of misinformation – articles have been reported as real news.</li> </ul>
www.theglobeandmail.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The official website of the <i>Globe and Mail</i>, a Canadian newspaper founded in 1844 with a weekly circulation of approximately 300 000.</li> <li>• Canada's most widely read newspaper on weekdays and Saturdays.</li> <li>• Considered to be Canada's "newspaper of record"</li> <li>• A reliable source of factual reporting.</li> </ul>
www.rabble.ca	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Canadian "alternative media" online magazine founded in 2001.</li> <li>• Works in partnership with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, a generally left-leaning think-tank.</li> <li>• Often takes an activist stance and advocates for progressive political causes.</li> <li>• Although it presents a left-wing bias, The Rabble's reporting is generally considered to be factual and properly sourced.</li> </ul>
www.newspunch.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A fake news website based in Los Angeles known for spreading conspiracy theories and political disinformation.</li> <li>• Mixes disinformation with real news stories to confuse readers about what is true.</li> </ul>

### 2) Find the Original Source

The articles below involve 'reporting on reporting'. Find the original source and then evaluate it.

“Orange Seagull is Actually Covered in Curry Powder”

[https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/entry/orange-seagull-curry-powder-uk\\_n\\_5d23a880e4b07e698c3f83bc](https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/entry/orange-seagull-curry-powder-uk_n_5d23a880e4b07e698c3f83bc)

Original Reporting Source:	Notes:
This story cites two original sources: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. CBS News</li><li>2. CNN</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. CBS News is the news division of American broadcasting company, CBS. It was founded in 1927 and is considered to be a reputable source.</li><li>2. CNN is an American cable news channel known for its coverage of breaking news. Although the network has been criticized for sensationalizing news, it is generally considered to be a reliable source.</li></ol>

“Primary School Bans All Parents from Sports Days for Overcompetitive Behaviour”

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/9406748/primary-school-bans-parents-sports-days-overcompetitive/>

Original Reporting Source:	Notes:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BBC Wales</li></ul>	BBC Wales is a division of the BBC and the national broadcaster for Wales. It is a reliable source.

### 3) Investigate the Claim

To see if a claim is accurate, use Google to find reporting on the story. Look for established media sources or fact-checking sites in the results.

Claim:	Notes:
U.K. school bans kids from saying ‘like.’	This claim is accurate. A keyword search shows that many reputable British sources, including the BBC and the Guardian, have reported on this story.
Kellogg’s plans to release ranch-dressing flavoured Pop Tarts.	This claim is not accurate. A keyword search should reveal that, although a picture of a box of ranch-dressing flavoured Pop Tarts circulated on social media, the image was fabricated.
Air Canada passenger says she woke up alone on dark, empty plane.	This claim is accurate. A number of reputable sites like CNN, CTV News and Global News have reported the story.
Scientists find dandelion root kills 98% of cancer cells in 48 hours.	This claim is not accurate.

	A keyword search reveals a number of fact-checks, including one from Snopes. These reports tell us that, while scientists are studying the effects of dandelion root extract on cancer cells, there is no concrete evidence that it is an effective treatment. Moreover, there is no evidence at all to support the claim that dandelion root kills 98% of cancer cells in 48 hours.
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#### 4) Check the Photo

Visit [www.newswise.ca/examples](http://www.newswise.ca/examples) for reverse-image search practice examples. Right-click any picture in the Chrome browser, and select 'Search Google for Image' to find out where else a photo has been used.

Image Description:	Notes From Reverse-Image Search:
Justin Bieber eating a burrito sideways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A reverse image search should reveal that this image was a prank staged by a group of YouTubers. The image isn't doctored, but the person eating the burrito is a Justin Bieber lookalike, not the real thing.</li> <li>By reverse image searching this image, students may also come across a YouTube video where the pranksters explain how they created the image and helped it go viral.</li> </ul>
The frozen Irtysh river in Russia looks like the mask from <i>Scream</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A reverse image search should produce a result from Snopes.com confirming that the image had been manipulated.</li> </ul>
A man covered in bees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A reverse image search should reveal a number of reputable sources that confirm that this is a real image of beekeeper Gao Bingguo attempting to set a world record.</li> </ul>
The site of an airplane crash, allegedly Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302, which crashed on March 10, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A reverse image search should reveal that the image is actually of the crash site of Asiana Airlines Flight 214 from July, 2013.</li> </ul> <p><b>Teacher note:</b> While this image of a crash is real, it is not from the event of March 10, 2019. Because old images will often circulate with breaking news, remind students to try to verify the date the image. If they find examples of the image being published before the event in question, it's very likely that the image is being used out of context.</p>