Can You Trust All News?

Understanding Fake and Incorrect News

Objective:

To introduce grade students to the concept of fake and incorrect news.
To develop critical thinking skills to identify unreliable information.
To encourage responsible consumption and sharing of news.

Materials Needed:

Whiteboard and markers or a chalkboard
Examples of age-appropriate news articles, both real and fake (pre-selected and prepared)
Visual aids (e.g., images, graphics, or printed news articles)

Introduction:
Begin by asking students if they have heard or seen news stories recently. Share a brief, age-appropriate real news story as an introduction to the concept of news.

Discussion: Ask students what they think news is and why it's important. Explain that news provides information about what's happening in the community and world around us.

Understanding Fake News or Made Up News:
Examples: Show students examples of news articles, both real and fake. Discuss the differences between them, highlighting characteristics of fake news like sensational headlines, strange websites, or no sources.

Discussion: Engage the students in a discussion:
What makes a news article fake or incorrect?
Why might someone create fake news? *(Click-bait – advertisements)*
How can we tell if a news story is fake?

Identify Fake News: Show a few more news articles and ask students to identify whether they think each article is real or fake. Encourage them to explain their reasoning.