Safer Internet Day 2021

What is Safer Internet Day all About?

Safer Internet Day started in 2005 and now happens in over 100 countries worldwide, every February. It aims to help young people to keep themselves safe online by making responsible choices. This year, it is being held on Tuesday 9th February and the theme is 'An Internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world'.

Some Uses of the Internet:

- watching videos
- listening to music
- video chatting with family members or friends
- learning new skills
- shopping
- gaming
- finding out about the news, weather and sport'

An Internet We Trust: Exploring Reliability in the Online World - What Does the Safer Internet Day 2021 Theme Mean?

The Internet has many uses and an enormous amount of information can be accessed online. But how do we know the difference between what is fact and fiction?

The 2021 Safer Internet Day theme focuses on being able to decide what we can trust online. It supports young people to question and challenge what they see and read on the Internet.

Although the Internet is a great source of information for young people, unfortunately, not everything is always as it seems. The online world also contains fake news and misleading content, which can influence young people's decisions, views and opinions, as well as their emotional wellbeing.

Is it true?

Safer Internet Day 2021 will look at why inaccurate content exists, where it comes from and how young people can manage it.

Fact or Fiction?

Being able to spot whether content is fact or fiction can be a difficult task that even adults can find tricky. Safer Internet Day aims to help young people feel more comfortable at separating fact from fiction by helping them to develop the skills they need to be able to make the best decisions while online.

Once they are aware of, and ready to spot, inaccurate content, they must take the next steps in helping to create an Internet that is full of trustworthy and reliable information.

Photos

Keep in mind that photos can often exaggerate real life. People usually use the prettiest, happiest pictures of themselves to share online. Images of other people's (carefully chosen) so-called, perfect lives can leave you feeling low. Try not to compare yourself, as they don't always tell the whole story.

How Is Fake News Harmful?

Fake news is harmful because it:

- affects our views;

- breaks the trust we have in people in the media, many of whom are actually reporting honestly;

- causes people to act on false information.

What Is Fake News?

Fake news is false information that is published, claiming to be true and reliable news.

journalist - A person who writes news for newspapers, magazines or news websites.

How to Spot Fake News

Here is a guide to help you spot fake news.

- Who is reporting the story? Check that a trustworthy news channel is reporting the story, such as the BBC.

- Is there an author or **journalist** name? If not, it could be suspicious.

- What is the domain name? Fake news stories will often have a strange domain name. Websites ending in .com.co are often fake versions of real sites.

- Does it seem professional? Bad web design, as well as poor spelling, punctuation and grammar, might mean it's fake news.

- Don't just assume the first thing you read is true; read stories from different sources to get a range of viewpoints.

Questions

1. What is the theme for Safer Internet Day 2021? Tick one.
   - ○ exploring reliability in the online world: an Internet we trust
   - ○ an Internet we trust: separating fact from fiction
   - ○ an Internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world
   - ○ an Internet we trust: exploring trustworthiness in the online world

2. Look at the **Some Uses of the Internet** section.
   Tick **two** different reasons why people use the Internet.
   - ○ to clean their teeth
   - ○ to sleep
   - ○ to learn new skills
   - ○ to shop

3. Fill in the missing words.

   The 2021 Safer Internet Day theme focuses on being able to decide what we can _____ online. It supports young people to question and _____ what they see and read on the Internet.

4. **Although the Internet is a great source of information for young people, unfortunately, not everything is always as it seems.**
   Explain what is meant by this.

   _____

   _____

   _____

5. What is fake news? Tick **two**.
   - ○ false information that is published
   - ○ information that is true
   - ○ information that claims to be true
   - ○ all information on the Internet

6. Find and copy one word that means the same as 'making out something to be larger, better or worse than it really is'.

   _____

7. How can fake news and misleading content be harmful? Tick **three**.
   - ○ it can influence people's views
   - ○ it can influence people to act on false information
   - ○ it can influence the weather
   - ○ it can break the trust people have in the media

8. Do you think Safer Internet Day is important? Explain your answer.

_____

_____

_____

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Answers

1. What is the theme for Safer Internet Day 2021? Tick one.
   - ○ exploring reliability in the online world: an Internet we trust
   - ○ an Internet we trust: separating fact from fiction
   - ⊘ **an Internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world**
   - ○ an Internet we trust: exploring trustworthiness in the online world

2. Look at the **Some Uses of the Internet** section.
   Tick **two** different reasons why people use the Internet.
   - ○ to clean their teeth
   - ○ to sleep
   - ⊘ **to learn new skills**
   - ⊘ **to shop**

3. Fill in the missing words.

   The 2021 Safer Internet Day theme focuses on being able to decide what we can **trust** online. It supports young people to question and **challenge** what they see and read on the Internet.

4. **Although the Internet is a great source of information for young people, unfortunately, not everything is always as it seems.**

   Explain what is meant by this. **Pupils' own responses, such as:**
   Despite there being many great uses for the Internet and it containing lots of interesting information, there is also false and misleading information and people shouldn't trust everything they read online.

5. What is fake news? Tick **two**.
   - ⊘ **false information that is published**
   - ○ information that is true
   - ⊘ **information that claims to be true**
   - ○ all information on the Internet

6. Find and copy one word that means the same as 'making out something to be larger, better or worse than it really is'.

   exaggerate

7. How can fake news and misleading content be harmful? Tick **three**.
   - ⊘ **it can influence people's views**
   - ⊘ **it can influence people to act on false information**
   - ○ it can influence the weather
   - ⊘ **it can break the trust people have in the media**

8. Do you think Safer Internet Day is important? Explain your answer.
Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Safer Internet Day is important because it teaches young people to be safe online and each year there is a theme that focuses on different things, such as this year's theme, which aims to help young people to decide what they can trust online.