

# Historian Super Sleuth



Someone who studies the past is called a **historian**. Facts about past events and people can be found in reference books, in newspaper articles, and on websites.

A historian makes sure the information they are studying is:

- based on facts
- written by someone who knows a lot about the topic
- found in multiple places
- from a credible source

## Fact and Opinion

A **fact** is something that can be proven as true. An **opinion** is something a person thinks or feels.

Here is an example of a fact: The day after Friday is Saturday. This statement can be checked by looking at a calendar.

Here is an example of an opinion: Football is better than baseball. This cannot be proven as a fact because it is what someone thinks or feels.



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For the statements below, decide if each sentence is a fact or an opinion. If the statement is a fact, circle the word “fact.” If the statement is an opinion, circle the word “opinion.”

- |   |      |         |
|---|------|---------|
| 1. There are 12 months in a calendar year.        | Fact | Opinion |
| 2. Friday is the best day of the week.            | Fact | Opinion |
| 3. The state bird of Arkansas is the mockingbird. | Fact | Opinion |
| 4. Summer is the best season.                     | Fact | Opinion |
| 5. There is nothing fun to do in Arkansas.        | Fact | Opinion |
| 6. Fish live in water.                            | Fact | Opinion |
| 7. There are 50 states in the United States.      | Fact | Opinion |
| 8. Little Rock is a city in Arkansas.             | Fact | Opinion |



Answers: 1. Fact; 2. Opinion; 3. Fact; 4. Opinion; 5. Opinion; 6. Fact; 7. Fact; 8. Fact

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## Credible Sources

Not all information you will find is factual, or true. When information is written about something or someone, the information needs to be **credible**, or believable.



A **credible source** is information written by an expert in their area of study. This information should not have any mistakes and should be fair to others. Credible sources are used to find the truth.

Below are some rules on how to identify credible sources.

- ✓ The author's name is clearly stated and the author is an expert on the topic.
- ✓ The information is based on facts, not feelings.
- ✓ There is a date when the information was published.
- ✓ The information is current and found in multiple places.
- ✓ There are no spelling mistakes or broken language rules.
- ✓ The information comes from a dependable source.
- ✓ The information lines up with what you know to be true.

Read the sentences in the table. Using the rules above, put a check mark  in the boxes if the statements could come from a credible source and put an x  in the boxes if the statements could not come from a credible source.

	Credible source <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not a credible source <input type="checkbox"/>
1. An article written by a local citizen was posted on a social media website that is known to have fake stories. It announced that Big Foot was spotted in their backyard on August 8, 2023. He was wearing a fedora and tap shoes. There were misspelled words and few punctuation marks.		
2. On July 17, 2023, a news reporter, June Parks, spoke on the XYZ news station about a total solar eclipse. It will occur on April 8, 2024, and will be seen in parts of North America. She interviewed a local scientist about the event.		

Answers: 1. Not a credible source; 2. Credible source

# Historian Super Sleuth

Newspapers help to inform people about the world around them. They can be printed on paper or found online as digital versions.

Not all news sources and news stories are to inform. Some are to entertain. There may be pictures and pieces of information that do not appear to be real, or there may be stories that do not have enough evidence to be proven as true. Examples include stories about the Loch Ness Monster and Sasquatch.

Look at the sample newspaper. Use what you have learned to determine if this source is credible.



## TWINKL TIMES

### THE GORILLA GARDENER WITH GREEN FINGERS

People in Twinkleton have been surprised by a new gardener in town. The new gardener is a huge gorilla!

The gorilla escaped from a local zoo in January. Since then, he has been living in the local area and growing his own food. This is when he realized he had a talent for gardening!

On Tuesday, the gorilla put up a poster to let people know about his gardening business.

On Friday, Ali Smith asked the gorilla to weed his yard and plant some carrots. Mr. Smith said that the gorilla did a fantastic job.

Yesterday, Kareem was playing in his garden when he spotted the gorilla gardener. "I was scared at first," he said, "but the gorilla was very kind and professional."

The gorilla's customers say he is very good at growing plants. He can work with flowers, trees and vegetables. He plans to open his own garden center next year.



**The gorilla gardener has started a business in Twinkleton.**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Complete the following statement. This newspaper is \_\_\_\_\_ (credible, not credible).
2. List three reasons that helped you decide whether the newspaper was credible or not credible.

Are you a historian super sleuth? Read the following statements about checking for factual information on the internet and in articles.



Circle **True** if the statements are true and circle **False** if the statements are false.

- |   |      |       |
|---|------|-------|
| 3. I should always check for a title, an author, and the date.            | True | False |
| 4. If it is on the internet, it must be true.                             | True | False |
| 5. I should always check to see if the information is in many places.     | True | False |
| 6. The pictures, charts, maps, or graphs should have titles and captions. | True | False |
| 7. There should be accurate information listed.                           | True | False |

Answers: 1. not credible; 2. Possible answers may include that there is no author listed, there is no date listed, and that the picture is not real because gorillas do not mow lawns; 3. True; 4. False; 5. True; 6. True; 7. True