

Compare Sources & Check Credibility

Compare two sources for purpose, evidence, date, expertise and suitability for a research question.

LEARN • PRACTISE • CREATE • REFLECT

Original BrightPencil Kids resource - adult-led where appropriate

A4 edition • 12 purposeful pages • review copy

Print. Learn. Grow.

Grown-up guide

Learning objective

Compare two sources for purpose, evidence, date, expertise and suitability for a research question.

Use this pack well

- Model the first example aloud, then let the learner try.
- Ask “How do you know?” more often than “Are you finished?”.
- Use real objects, talk, movement or observation when the activity suggests it.
- Stop or shorten the session if attention or enjoyment drops.
- Open-ended pages can have many successful answers.

Quality note

This resource was written originally for BrightPencil Kids. Curriculum sources informed scope and progression only; no third-party worksheet or story text is reproduced.

Learn the idea

1 A source can be useful for one question and weak for another.

2 Date, author/organisation, evidence and purpose are useful credibility clues.

3 Reliable research often uses more than one source.

Talk about it

Explain one idea in your own words. Give an example from real life, a drawing or an object if that helps.

Compare a museum page and an opinion blog for a factual history question.

Identify which source provides evidence rather than unsupported assertion.

Explain why publication date can matter for changing information.

Separate source quality from whether you personally agree with the source.

Build a quick source-check table: who, when, purpose, evidence, usefulness.

Try it beyond the page

Real-world / hands-on connection

With a trusted adult, compare two reputable pages about the same topic and discuss what each contributes.

Before you finish

What did you notice?

What evidence, object or example helped you?

What would you change if you tried again?

Create something

Your project

Create a source-check bookmark with five questions a learner can ask before using information.

Use this space for planning, drawing, mapping, designing or notes.

CHALLENGE

Think deeper

1. Does a professional-looking page automatically make information reliable?

2. Why might date matter?

3. Why use more than one source?

Quick review

1. In one sentence, explain the big idea of “Compare Sources & Check Credibility”.

2. Draw or write one example that shows you understand.

3. Choose one activity from this pack and explain the strategy you used.

4. Write one question you still have.

Answer & discussion notes

Use these as guidance, not scripts. Open questions can have different successful responses when the reasoning is sensible and evidence-based.

1. Suggested response

No.

2. Suggested response

Some information changes over time.

3. Suggested response

Different sources can confirm, challenge or add detail.

Review before publication

Check age fit, factual accuracy, clarity, accessibility, rights provenance and whether the activity works in practice. This file remains a review copy until those checks are signed off.

FINISH

My learning reflection

I finished this BrightPencil learning pack.

One thing I understand better now:

A strategy that helped me:

Something I created or noticed:

My next small question or goal:

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