

What's Your Source for TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE: IT'S ALIVE!?

Teachers & Librarians,

There are so many sources of information in today's world. Newspapers, magazines, television, social media, websites, and more present us with information! When students hear a story about a startling new discovery or a strange creature that is being studied, do they ever wonder if it is *really* true?

The authors of **TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE: IT'S ALIVE!** (Walden Pond Press) are challenging readers to check the validity of sources in their fun, engaging book. Three non-fiction topics are introduced in each section of the book. Two of those stories are valid scientific topics and one is an invented topic, often the topic of an online hoax. As a school librarian with a passion for STEM topics, I saw this book as an opportunity both to explore interesting stories and to develop crucial information literacy skills.

What's Your Source? provides you with links for students to explore. The resources give students a chance to dig deeper into one of the topics from the book and determine the validity of the sources. Invite students to investigate who wrote each article and why. Give them the chance to compare and cross-check the information before making their final decision on whether the stories in **TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE: IT'S ALIVE!** are a truth or a lie. You may give each student a different topic to explore and then report back to the class, or you may prefer to have them work in small groups with each member checking on one link and then everyone comparing their results to reach a group verdict about their assigned topic. Either way, they will be looking at the information with a critical eye, which is how you want them to approach any source they use.

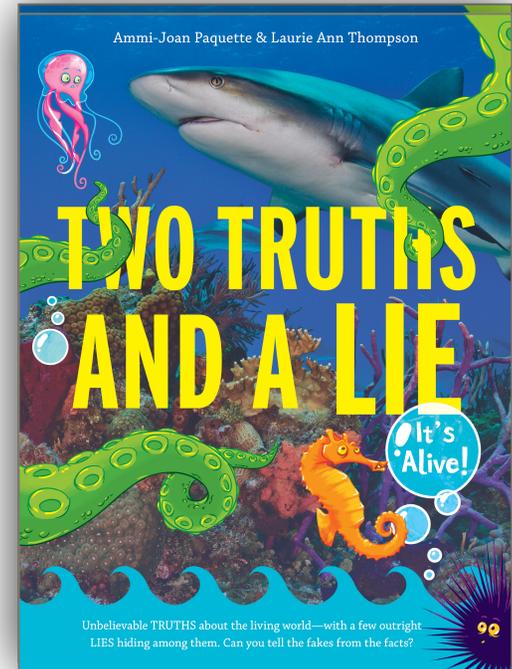
These websites are also available as a list for your use in the sheet entitled **Reaching for Resources**. That free downloadable resource and the rationale, curriculum connections, and grading rubric for this activity can be found by searching "two truths" at CuriousCityDPW.com.

Suzanne Costner

Library Media Specialist

Elementary School STEM Coordinator

C.A.P. National Aerospace Education Teacher of the Year



What's Your Source for TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE: IT'S ALIVE!?

STEM Investigators,

Are you ready to use your research skills to tell a truth from a lie?

- 1) Read **TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE: IT'S ALIVE!** by Ammi-Joan Paquette and Laurie Ann Thompson (Walden Pond Press).
- 2) Choose at least 3 of the sources listed in the attached spreadsheets and check them for proof that the story is true or not true. If you have time, find another source and share its URL.

Before you begin: Think about what makes information trustworthy. Look carefully at the websites for the story you are verifying. There are several clues to help you determine the purpose of a website, one of which is the ending on the URL. Remember that .gov indicates an official government website, .edu is for an educational group like a school or college, .mil is for the armed services, and .com is for commercial sites, while .org or .net may be used by anyone.

After looking at the URL for clues, look to see who owns the website. Is there an "About Us" link that takes you to information about the owners? What does it say about them? What is their purpose in creating the website? Who provides the information and what qualifies them to be an expert about the subject(s)? When was the website last updated - is the information current or out of date?

Then look at the content of the website. What sort of information is shared? Is the author trying to Persuade, Inform, or Entertain you? The author's purpose will affect what they write. (For instance, the minutes of a city council meeting as reported by their official secretary on the city's municipal website may be presented differently than by the reporter for a special interest group that disagrees with legislation the council was voting on during their last session.) Always look for bias - what is said, how is it said, and what is not said? To be sure that information is accurate, it is always best to confirm the facts with more than one source. Compare what each source says and see if the facts agree.

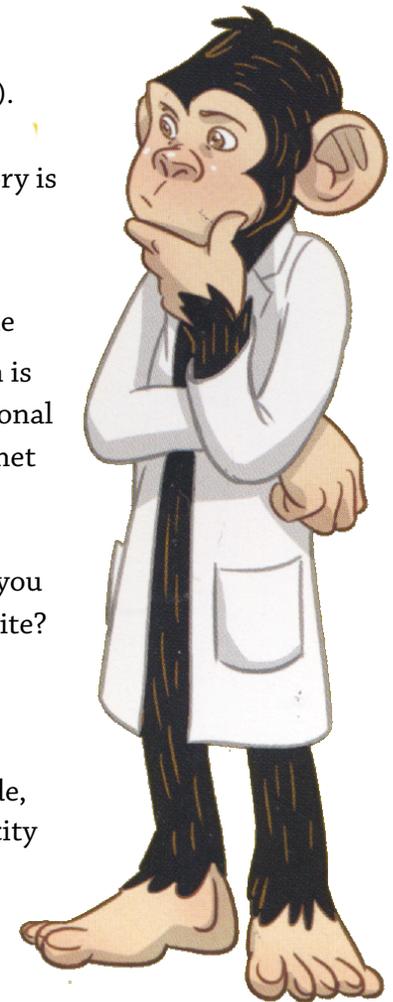


Illustration © Lisa K. Weber

What's Your Source for TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE: IT'S ALIVE!?

Chapter 1: Crazy Plants

A. Underground Miracle Root: The royal fleecflower grows person-shaped roots.

SOURCE URL	Type of person or group?	Are they an expert in the field?	Does more than 1 source confirm the story?	What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform, Entertain	Find another source not listed here.
bit.ly/ttaal110t					
bit.ly/ttaal111t					
dailym.ai/ttaal112t					
bit.ly/ttaal113t					

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Chapter 1: Crazy Plants

B. Pandemonium: An entire forest is actually one giant tree.

SOURCE URL	Type of person or group?	Are they an expert in the field?	Does more than 1 source confirm the story?	What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform, Entertain	Find another source not listed here.
bit.ly/ttaal114t					
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Chapter 1: Crazy Plants

C. The Secret Lives of Plants: Plants can actually communicate with each other.

SOURCE URL	Type of person or group?	Are they an expert in the field?	Does more than 1 source confirm the story?	What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform, Entertain	Find another source not listed here.
bit.ly/ttaal120t					
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Chapter 2: Creepy Plants (and Fungi)

A. The Flowery Smell of Death: Giant plant smells like dead bodies when it blooms.

SOURCE URL	Type of person or group?	Are they an expert in the field?	Does more than 1 source confirm the story?	What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform, Entertain	Find another source not listed here.
http://bit.ly/ttaal129t					
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Chapter 2: Creepy Plants (and Fungi)

B. Eyes Watching from the Darkness: Hybrid animal resembles walking moss.

SOURCE URL	Type of person or group?	Are they an expert in the field?	Does more than 1 source confirm the story?	What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform, Entertain	Find another source not listed here.
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Chapter 2: Creepy Plants (and Fungi)

C. A Fungus Among Us: Parasitic organism creates zombie ants.

SOURCE URL	Type of person or group?	Are they an expert in the field?	Does more than 1 source confirm the story?	What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform, Entertain	Find another source not listed here.
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http://bit.ly/ttaal128t					

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Chapter 3: Cool Plants

A. Watch Your Step! Bridges are built from living tree roots.

SOURCE URL	Type of person or group?	Are they an expert in the field?	Does more than 1 source confirm the story?	What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform, Entertain	Find another source not listed here.
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Chapter 3: Cool Plants

B. Let There Be Flower Power! Plants can be used as a light source.

SOURCE URL	Type of person or group?	Are they an expert in the field?	Does more than 1 source confirm the story?	What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform, Entertain	Find another source not listed here.
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Chapter 3: Cool Plants

C. The Sweet Truth: Miracle fruit makes sour foods taste sweet.

SOURCE URL	Type of person or group?	Are they an expert in the field?	Does more than 1 source confirm the story?	What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform, Entertain	Find another source not listed here.
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Chapter 4: Small Animals

A. Puppy's Got a Brand-New Pal: Tiny snakes live inside ears of wild dogs.

SOURCE URL	Type of person or group?	Are they an expert in the field?	Does more than 1 source confirm the story?	What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform, Entertain	Find another source not listed here.
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Chapter 4: Small Animals

B. The Tiny Guardians of Your Bookshelf: Miniature scorpions keep your books safe.

SOURCE URL	Type of person or group?	Are they an expert in the field?	Does more than 1 source confirm the story?	What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform, Entertain	Find another source not listed here.
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Chapter 4: Small Animals

C. Mighty Mollusks: Sea snails help scientists develop stronger building materials.

SOURCE URL	Type of person or group?	Are they an expert in the field?	Does more than 1 source confirm the story?	What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform, Entertain	Find another source not listed here.
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Chapter 5: Medium Animals

A. Invasion of the Tree Octopods: Pacific Northwest has an octopus that can survive in the trees.

SOURCE URL	Type of person or group?	Are they an expert in the field?	Does more than 1 source confirm the story?	What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform, Entertain	Find another source not listed here.
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Chapter 5: Medium Animals

B. The Extraordinary, Extra-Cranial Mike: Famous chicken lives after having its head chopped off.

SOURCE URL	Type of person or group?	Are they an expert in the field?	Does more than 1 source confirm the story?	What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform, Entertain	Find another source not listed here.
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Chapter 5: Medium Animals

C. Olmy Goodness, Tiny Dragons! Baby dragons found in cave in Slovenia.

SOURCE URL	Type of person or group?	Are they an expert in the field?	Does more than 1 source confirm the story?	What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform, Entertain	Find another source not listed here.
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http://bit.ly/ttaal277t					
http://bit.ly/ttaal173t					

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Chapter 6: Large Animals

A. Discovering Prehistoric Bambi: Family finds new type of raptor fossil while camping.

SOURCE URL	Type of person or group?	Are they an expert in the field?	Does more than 1 source confirm the story?	What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform, Entertain	Find another source not listed here.
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Chapter 6: Large Animals

B. B.Megaconda - Myth No More: Giant anaconda found in Amazon River basin.

SOURCE URL	Type of person or group?	Are they an expert in the field?	Does more than 1 source confirm the story?	What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform, Entertain	Find another source not listed here.
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Chapter 6: Large Animals

C. Gelatinous Curtains of Death: Superorganisms over 130 feet long found in ocean.

SOURCE URL	Type of person or group?	Are they an expert in the field?	Does more than 1 source confirm the story?	What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform, Entertain	Find another source not listed here.
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Chapter 7: Humans - Yes!

A. Poop to the Rescue: Fecal transplant can help sick people get well.

SOURCE URL	Type of person or group?	Are they an expert in the field?	Does more than 1 source confirm the story?	What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform, Entertain	Find another source not listed here.
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Chapter 7: Humans - Yes!

B. Frankenstein's Fix: Doctors can transplant head to a new body.

SOURCE URL	Type of person or group?	Are they an expert in the field?	Does more than 1 source confirm the story?	What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform, Entertain	Find another source not listed here.
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Chapter 7: Humans - Yes!

C. Pee Power! Scientists use urine as a fuel source.

SOURCE URL	Type of person or group?	Are they an expert in the field?	Does more than 1 source confirm the story?	What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform, Entertain	Find another source not listed here.
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Chapter 8: Humans - Nooooo.

A. A Brief History of the World in Hiccups: Cases of hiccups can last for years, even decades.

SOURCE URL	Type of person or group?	Are they an expert in the field?	Does more than 1 source confirm the story?	What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform, Entertain	Find another source not listed here.
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What's Your Source for TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE: IT'S ALIVE!?

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Chapter 8: Humans - Noooo.

B. Me, Myself, and...Who?

SOURCE URL	Type of person or group?	Are they an expert in the field?	Does more than 1 source confirm the story?	What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform, Entertain	Find another source not listed here.
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What's Your Source for TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE: IT'S ALIVE!?

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http://bit.ly/ttaal210t					
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Chapter 8: Humans - Noooo.

C. I Spy with My X-Ray Eyes:

SOURCE URL	Type of person or group?	Are they an expert in the field?	Does more than 1 source confirm the story?	What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform, Entertain	Find another source not listed here.
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What's Your Source for TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE: IT'S ALIVE!?

Chapter 9: Humans - Maybe?

A. The Cure for the Common Wallflower: Gene Therapy to Cure Shyness

SOURCE URL	Type of person or group?	Are they an expert in the field?	Does more than 1 source confirm the story?	What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform, Entertain	Find another source not listed here.
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http://bit.ly/ttaal221t					

What's Your Source for TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE: IT'S ALIVE!?

Chapter 9: Humans - Maybe?

B. The Bloody Fountain of Youth: Transfusions from Young People Help Older Patients

SOURCE URL	Type of person or group?	Are they an expert in the field?	Does more than 1 source confirm the story?	What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform, Entertain	Find another source not listed here.
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Chapter 9: Humans - Maybe?

C. Remote-Controlled...Brains?! Scientists Connect Brains through Internet

SOURCE URL	Type of person or group?	Are they an expert in the field?	Does more than 1 source confirm the story?	What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform, Entertain	Find another source not listed here.
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