

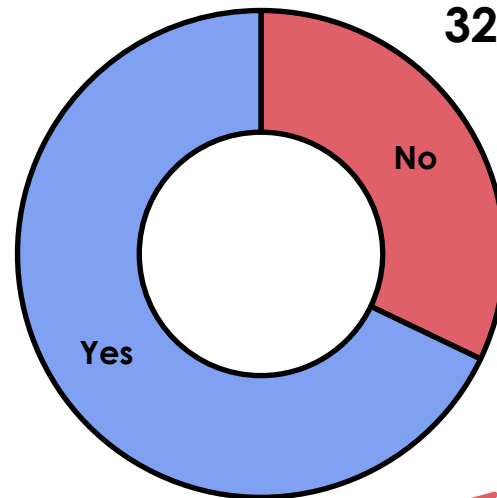


Feedback: "Are you ready for the new normal?"

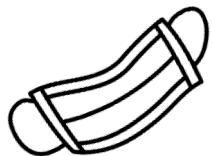
No
32.1%

"We are ready for the new normal. Everyday life is always a new day, circumstances always change everyday through technology, wars, illnesses. Everyone has to adapt to survive. Life has to go on, and we have to be aware of dangers around us."

Lea Forest Primary Academy



Yes
67.9%



"I have been at school for a while and I am getting used to this new normal."

Lyndhurst House Prep School

"I am ready but I am still nervous in case it's not safe."

Saint Aidan's RC Primary



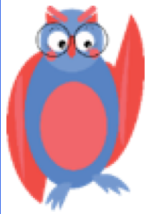
"I'm worried because the lockdown is getting relaxed and people think Coronavirus is over and there is no need to social distance."

Park Hall Junior Academy

"Thank you so much for getting involved and sharing your views. We think it's really important that schools are ready to support their pupils with their mental health and wellbeing when they open again, and we wrote a report called Time For a Clean Slate that asks the Government and schools to make sure they look after pupil wellbeing as well as catching up on missed classes."

Amy Woodworth, Senior Research and Policy Officer at Barnardo's





Be informed!



Here's what's been in the news this week...

Leicester back into lockdown



After a rise in cases, Leicester has gone back into lockdown **with all schools and non-essential shops closing.**

More Black History please!

Lots of groups and charities are campaigning for more Black History to be taught in the curriculum.



The Government has said that **all children** will go **back to school in September**, and you're likely to be in a "bubble" with your class!



Fortnite developers have announced their Summer Splash, where **lots of modes, skins and new features will appear!**

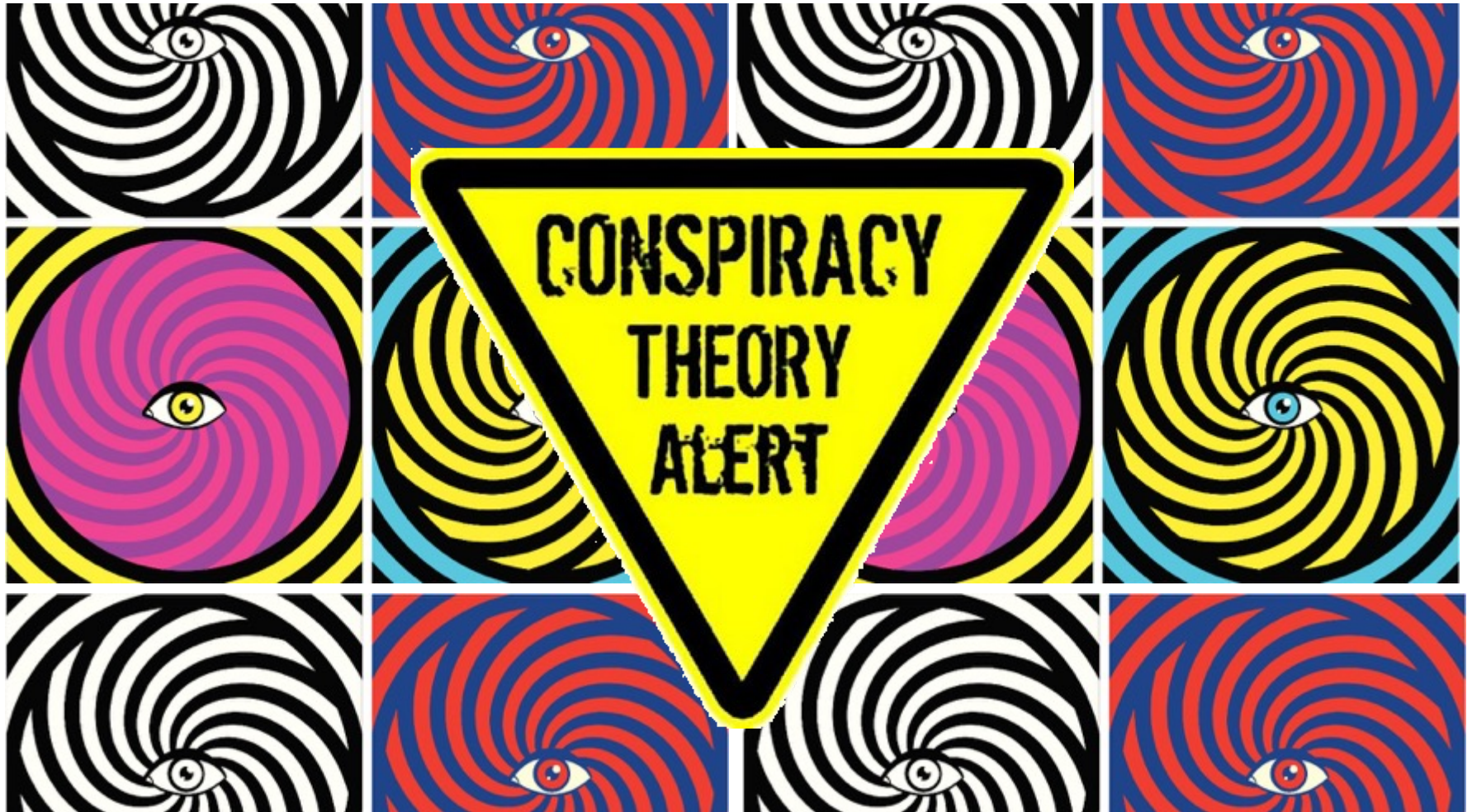


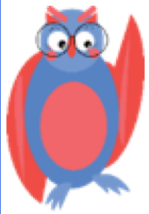
Back to school in September!



Fortnite Summer Splash!

Are **conspiracy theories** more **dangerous** than we realise?





What is a conspiracy theory?



Conspiracy theories are often talked about along with **fake news** and **misinformation**, but what do they all mean?



Fake news

A story that looks like news, but has actually been created as a joke or to make you feel a certain way.

Misinformation

Wrong, or partly wrong information that is trying to trick you.

Conspiracy theory

Believing that an event or situation is the result of a secret plan made by powerful people.



What is a conspiracy theory?



Another big difference between conspiracy theories and fake news is that **lots of people believe conspiracy theories**. Some studies have found that **up to 20% of people believe the most popular ones!**

Scientists think that this is because **humans try to find patterns in everything**. For example:



If you **got sick after eating green meat**, you would think that **green meat is bad**.



However, experts say that **sometimes we find the wrong patterns**. For example, Baby Yoda appeared on TV in December 2019, at the same time as COVID-19 started spreading. **Did Baby Yoda cause Coronavirus?**



Why are we talking about this?



Experts have found that **when we're stressed** and feel like things are out of control, **we are more likely to believe in conspiracy theories.**

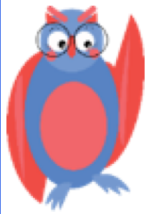
And with everyone spending more time on **social media**, conspiracy theory posts and videos **spread quickly to millions of people.** In fact, one study found **that fake news stories spread quicker online than real ones!**

Discuss (2-3 mins)

Have you heard of any conspiracy theories during lockdown?



This has been especially true over the past few months, with **Coronavirus theories about China, 5G towers and vaccinations** all spreading across the UK.



Why are we talking about this?



These theories didn't just spread here in the UK – **similar theories have been seen all over the world**. In February, the Director of the World Health Organisation (WHO) said that **we're not just fighting the pandemic, but we're also "fighting an infodemic"**, as we try to work out which information is fake and which is real.



But **are conspiracy theories really dangerous?** Or are they just **a bit of fun to help people during a stressful time?** That's what you'll be deciding today.



Theories in action



Think (5-10 mins)
 Draw this table on a piece of paper then have a look at the six conspiracy theories on the next two slides. Decide which box you think each one belongs in.



In the classroom?
 Work in small groups or do this task on the whiteboard together as a class.





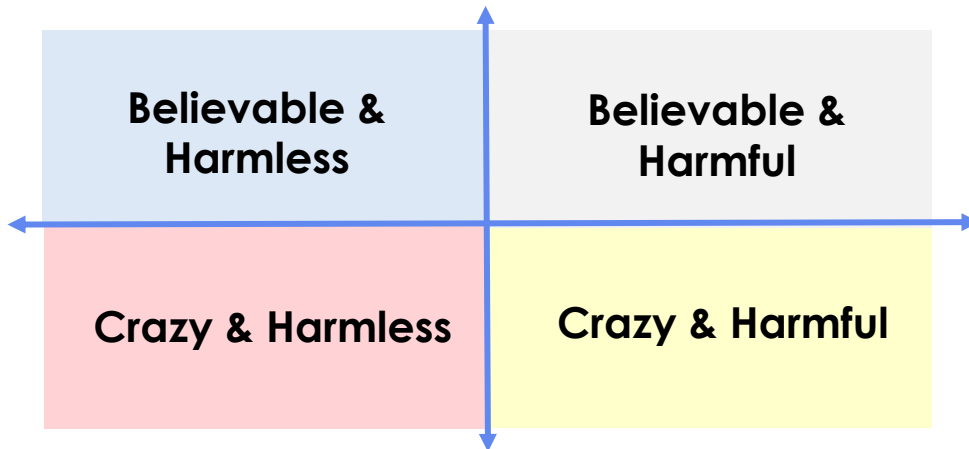
Theories in action

Reptilians



The idea of "**Reptilians**" was made popular by former TV presenter David Icke, who claims **shape-shifting reptile-human creatures control Earth by taking human form and gaining power.**

David Icke believes that **many world leaders** (including our Royal family) are, or **are possessed by, reptilians.**



Add the **Reptilian theory** to your grid. Where did you put it and why?



Theories in action

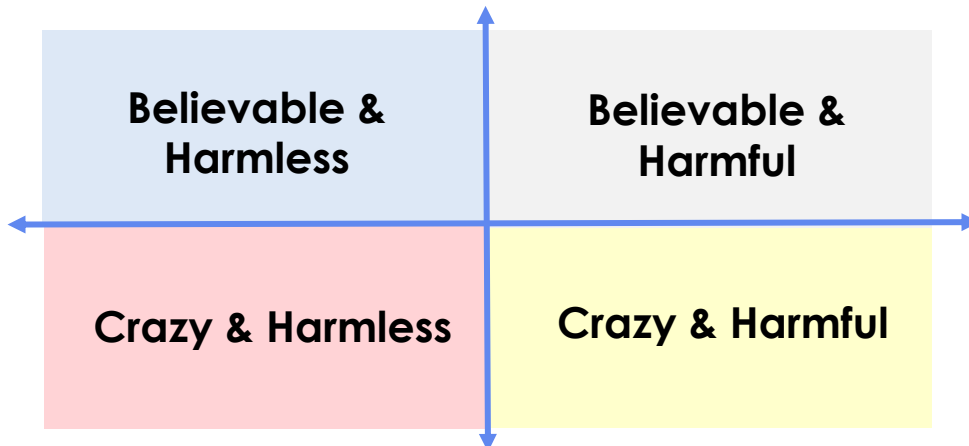
The Moon Landing was faked



In 1969, **NASA** flew **Neil Armstrong** and **Buzz Aldrin** to the **Moon**, making the USA the first country to have a crew set foot on the Moon.

The event was **shown on television to the whole world**, and many photos were taken of it.

Some **people believe the Moon Landing was faked to win the "Space Race"** against the Soviet Union (now Russia).



Add the **Moon Landing theory** to your grid. Where did you put it and why?



Theories in action

5G spreads Coronavirus

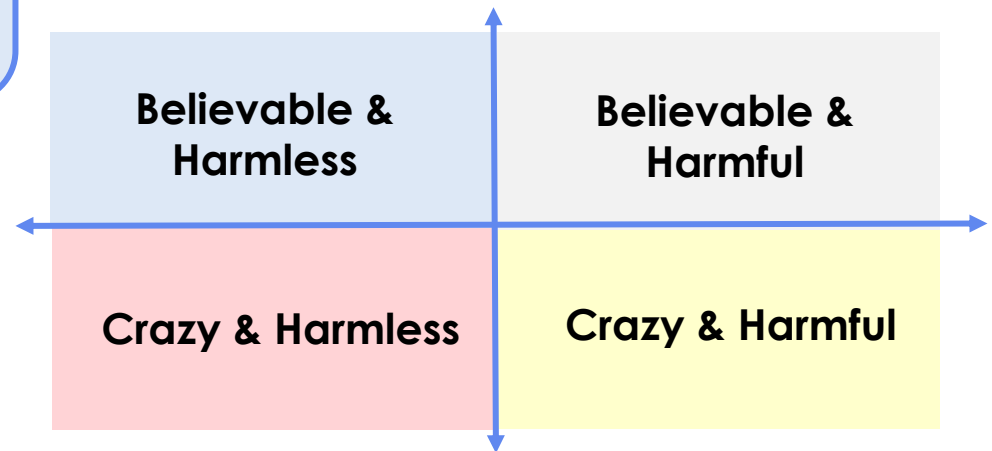


The latest **network upgrade** for mobile phones is called **5G**, and it is currently being set up across the UK.

Some people think that **5G caused Coronavirus**, and that the virus is spread by the towers.

Even though there is **no real evidence**, the theory **spread quickly online**. So far, **77 towers were set on fire** and more than **40 engineers have been attacked** in the UK.

Add the **5G theory** to your grid. Where did you put it and why?





Theories in action

The Earth is flat

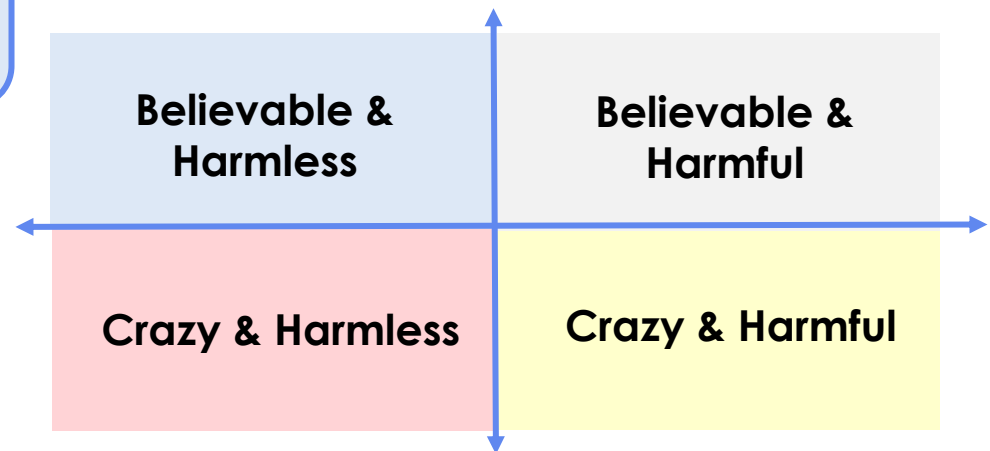


As the name suggests, The Flat Earth Society **believe that the Earth is flat**, not spherical.

They claim there is **no proof that the Earth is not flat**, and that NASA are **photoshopping their satellite images to trick the public!**

Over the years, **the group has tried to find evidence** that the Earth is flat but all their tests showed that it was actually round...

Add the **Flat Earth theory** to your grid.
Where did you put it and why?





Theories in action

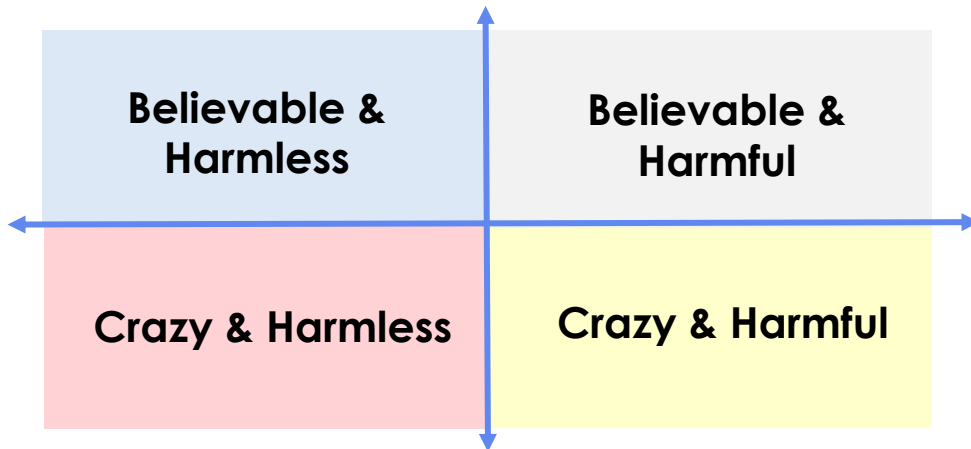
A secret group of powerful people



Many conspiracy theorists believe in the Illuminati - **a secret society which controls important world events and even the Government.**

While an Illuminati group **did exist hundreds of years ago**, it wasn't very powerful and was **ended in the 1780s.**

Theorists believe **that lots of famous people are members**, and some believe the group **created COVID-19.**



Add the **Illuminati theory** to your grid. Where did you put it and why?



Theories in action

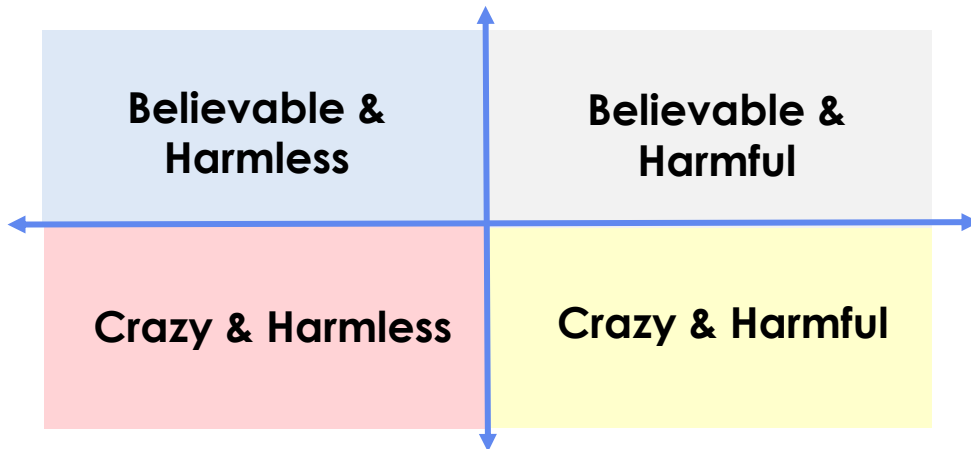
Jewish people caused the Plague



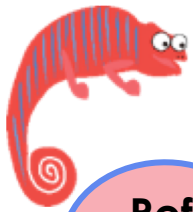
The Black Death (also called the Plague) was a **pandemic** that spread more than 600 years ago, and **killed approximately 25 million people**.

During the Plague, a **conspiracy theory spread that the disease was caused by Jewish people**.

Across Europe, **thousands of Jews were killed** by people trying to stop the spread of the disease. Of course **the theory wasn't true**.



Add the **Plague theory** to your grid. Where did you put it and why?



Theories in action



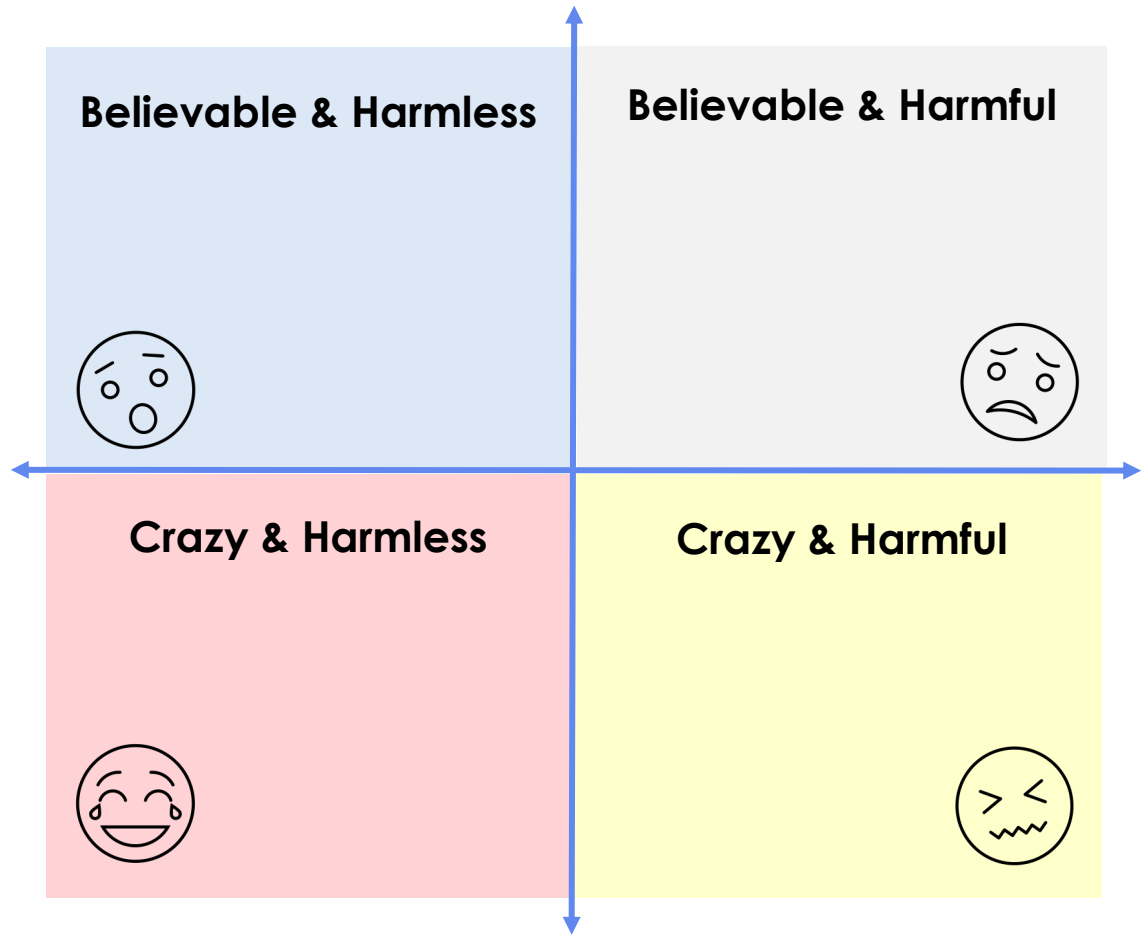
Reflect (3-5 mins)

Have a look at your table again and discuss the following questions:

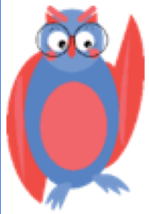
1 Did you think these conspiracy theories were mostly **harmless or harmful**?

2 Did you think these conspiracy theories were mostly **crazy or believable**?

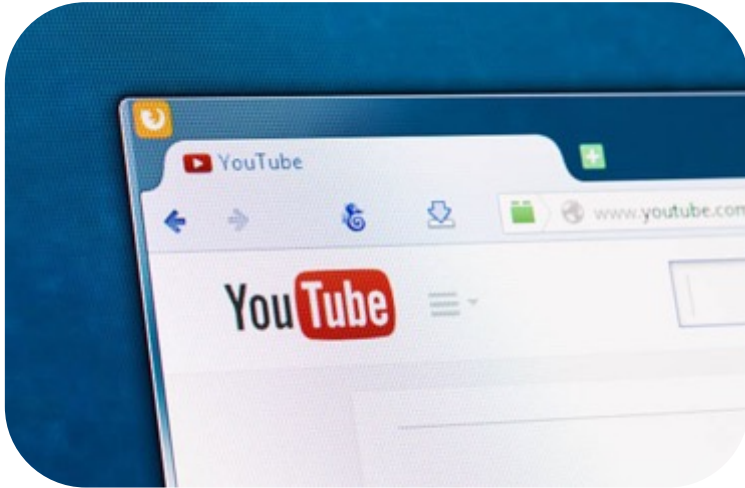
3 Why do you think people **believe these conspiracy theories**?



Challenge:
Add any other conspiracy theory you've heard of to your table.



What would you do?



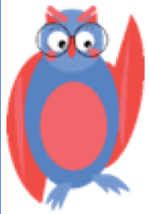
While on YouTube, you see a video that tells you that **a local fire that hurt lots of people was set by the Government.** They say that there is lots of evidence to show that the Government is lying, and that you should **join a protest this weekend to find out more about it.**

A Watch the next recommended video on YouTube that's called "The Government want to silence us!"

B Speak to an adult about what you have seen and ask questions about it.

C Go to the protest to find out what evidence they're talking about.

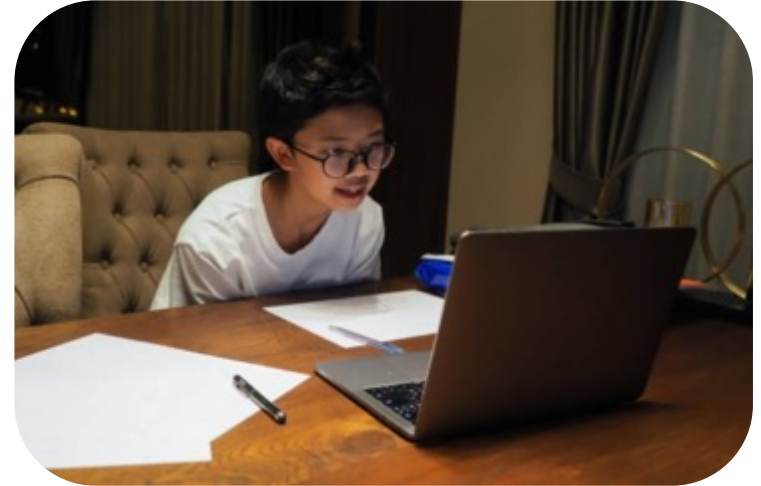
What would you do and why?



What would you do?



Your teacher asked you to do some research for your Geography homework. **While browsing, you see a website that says that aliens live under the ground, and are planning on attacking humans soon.** Now you feel really worried and don't know what to do!



What would you do and why?

A

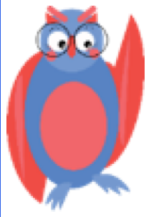
Copy the information for your Geography homework and give it to your teacher.

B

Tell all of your friends about the aliens, and tell them that we're going to be attacked.

C

Do some more research to see if any well-known websites agree with the theory.



What would you do?



A girl in your class **keeps talking about a conspiracy theory**. When you told her that it wasn't true she shouted at you and now she won't speak to you. **You don't want to lose a friend, but you don't know what to do next.**

A

Talk to her calmly and explain why you don't think it is true.

B

Laugh at her, and tell everyone else that the theory isn't true.

C

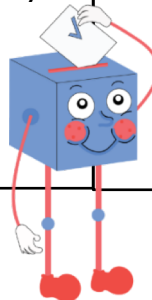
Agree not to talk about it anymore and pretend that you never had an argument.

What would you do and why?

Are conspiracy theories more dangerous than we realise?



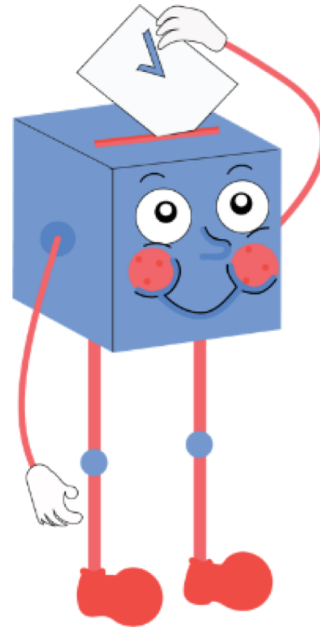
Yes	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Plague and 5G towers are examples that show how dangerous conspiracy theories can be.• They might not always be dangerous, but sometimes they can be, so we need to learn more about them.• Conspiracy theories spread quickly online and you can't always tell what's true or false, which can be dangerous.• Too many people are quick to just call the theories "crazy", when really they need to be taken seriously.• ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most people only think of conspiracy theories as funny stories - they don't actually believe them!• The majority of conspiracy theories – like the Moon Landing or Flat Earth – aren't dangerous to us today.• I know how to spot a conspiracy theory, and how to question what I see and hear, so they're not dangerous to me.• Because of the theories around Coronavirus, people seem more aware of the dangers.• ...





You can vote from home at...

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/vfs-primary-ks2-conspiracy-theories>



To have your voice heard!

If you have any issues, feedback or comments, email
amy@votesforschools.com!

