Should I trust everything I read on the web?

DO NOW:

List as many places as you can think of, where you would look when doing research at home or at school. You can give examples, e.g. BBC.co.uk

The world wide web is a great platform that lets anyone share information and ideas.

When you are browsing the web, you need to think about whether the things you are viewing are **reliable**.
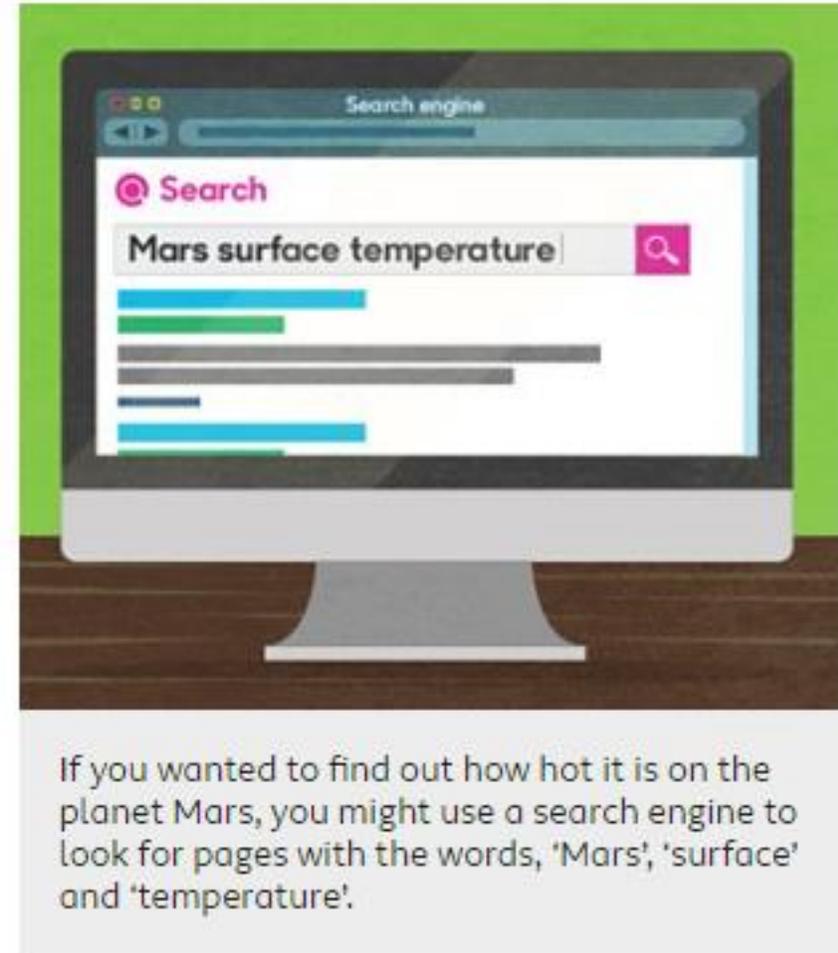
Is it content that you can trust?

Using a search engine

Search engines are a great way to find things on the web. If you search carefully you can find reliable and trustworthy information.

Keywords

Think carefully about the **keywords** you enter in your search. For example, to find out how hot it is on the planet Mars, you might search for the words 'Mars', 'surface' and 'temperature'.

Think about the number of keywords that you use, too. If you use too few keywords you could get too many results and they won't all be relevant. However, if you use too many keywords, you might get no results at all.

If you wanted to find out how hot it is on the planet Mars, you might use a search engine to look for pages with the words, 'Mars', 'surface' and 'temperature'.

Addresses which end with .sch.uk or ac.uk are educational websites and usually reliable.
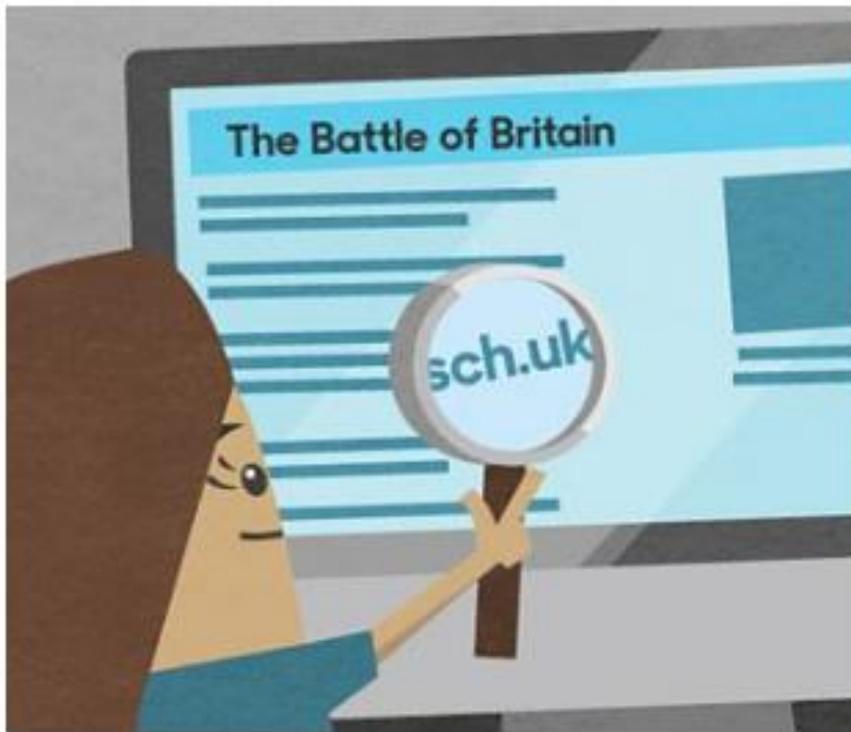
Making sense of the results

Once you have a list of results, you need to choose which links to click on. But how can you work out which are the reliable sites?

Well, it can be tricky. You need to look at the information and then use your best judgement. Here are a few tips to know what to click on:

Top links

Usually the top links are the most relevant to your search. However it is often worth scrolling down the page because you might find something better further down. Sometimes the top links are **adverts** for companies who have paid to be listed at the top. They will pay for every click they get.

Evaluating content and being critical

Unlike most non-fiction books that you get from a library, _many sites are not checked for accuracy_.

If you have doubts about how reliable a piece of content is you can check it by looking at other sites. If they all say the same thing it is probably accurate. This is called '**verification**'.

Go to this website: https://zapatopi.net/afdb/

Are aluminium foil deflector caps real? Look how genuine the site looks.

Evaluating digital content

Follow this hyperlink to a BBC clip:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zw8mtfr

So When we look at a website how can we tell that The Information it is giving us is correct?

Questions to ask

Who is the author? Can you contact them?

How detailed is the information?

Is it fact or opinion?

Is it mostly text, images or both?

Are there links? Do they back up what your website says?

Can you find any other websites to back your one up?

Is it a good quality website?

Activity.

In your books under the heading:

Should I trust everything I read on the web?

Write a paragraph or use bullet points to write down some hints for checking if a website can be trusted.

Tomorrow, we will look at some more unreliable or fake websites. We can use your ideas and the questions to assess their accuracy or success at fooling us.