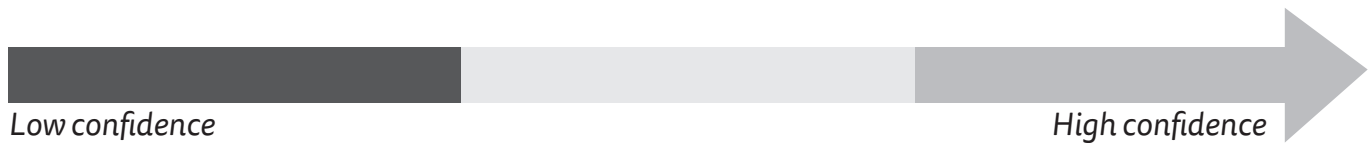


# What's the harm?

## How conspiracy theories shape beliefs

### Rank your confidence in the objectives today


1. **I can explain** how online content can influence us and encourage extreme views.
2. **I can recognise** signs that suggest online content might not be true or be misleading.
3. **I understand** how I can respond to extreme online content and know where to seek support.



### Analysing conspiracy theories

Sort these conspiracy theories into the categories:

- likely false
- needs checking

 <p>Dinosaurs never existed - fossils were faked to sell museum tickets</p>	 <p>Tech companies sell phone face ID to security services.</p>	 <p><b>INFONEWS:</b> Secret 5G towers cause strange illnesses in UK.</p>
 <p><b>Watch here:</b> COVID-19 vaccines can alter your DNA</p>	 <p><b>NEW DRONE FOOTAGE!</b> Secret civilisation hidden under Antarctica ice</p>	 <p>Aliens built the ancient pyramids</p>
 <p>Celebrities replaced by lookalikes to stop them ageing!!!</p>	 <p>The US government caused 9/11 to justify invading other countries</p>	 <p>Government hides evidence of life on Mars</p>

# Reflection Sheet

Take a few minutes to think about today's lesson.

Answer the questions below - there are no right or wrong answers, just your honest thoughts.

## 1. How can conspiracy theories be harmful?

---

---

---

---

---

## 2. Which of these theories could pose the greatest harm if shared?

---

---

---

---

---

### Analyse the artefact:

Complete these questions in pairs or groups on your worksheet.

- **What** happened on 11th September 2001, and how many people died as a result?
- **Why** do experts say 9/11 changed the world after the Cold War?

## Wild theories distort 9/11 memories

It is often said that we live in a post-9/11 world. Few events have done more to define the times in which we live.

On 11 September, 2001, a group of Islamist terrorists hijacked four planes, flew two of them into the World Trade Center

in New York and a third into the Pentagon. The last one crashed after the passengers heroically took on the hijackers. They killed almost 3,000 people. Just a decade before, the USSR had collapsed. The Cold War was over. Experts predicted a new

age of global peace and prosperity. Then, suddenly, one September morning, a new era of terror and conflict arrived.

So it should perhaps not be surprising that such a traumatic event has also given rise to a number of conspiracy theories.

**Knowledge check:**

Complete the blanks.

9/11 conspiracy theories started when some people doubted the government and these spread more easily online through \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. They are fuelled by fear and confusion, and many think the best way to stop them is for governments to be more \_\_\_\_\_ and restore \_\_\_\_\_.

- trust
- open
- social media
- the internet

Using these images think about the different ways you can respond to posts or content that you think are false or conspiracy theories?



---

---

---



---

---

---



---

---

---



---

---

---



---

---