

**Student Activity Guide: News You Can Trust?**

**Directions:** Find and read an online news article about measles (or read the printed article supplied by your teacher). Answer Questions 1 through 12 and then present your findings to the class using materials provided by your teacher. After all student presentations, answer Questions 13 through 15 (and 16 if your teacher assigns it).

1. What is the main point of the article?
2. What information is provided to support that main point? List at least three specific facts.
3. What can you find out about the author of the article?
4. What organization published the article? What can you find out about that organization?
5. What is the purpose of the article? Do you think the author or organization has an agenda? If yes, what makes you think so?
6. When was the article published? What does that reveal about the quality of the information?
7. Does the article appear to draw on primary sources? If so, how do they support the main point?
8. Does the article raise unanswered questions? If so, what?
9. Is there anything in the article that you'd like to verify elsewhere? If so, what?

10. Are there any red flags that make you skeptical of the article or its author? If so, what are they?

11. How does the information in the article compare and contrast with other information you know or have read?

12. On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being least trustworthy and 5 most trustworthy), how trustworthy do you think your article is? Why? Give at least two reasons for your rating.

13. How did the trustworthiness rating for the article you read compare with the ratings other groups assigned their articles?

14. What factors did the other groups weigh most heavily in determining trustworthiness? Were these factors similarly important to your group's rating?

15. List the steps that you will take in the future when trying to determine whether an article is trustworthy. How will you change your approach to evaluating general news? What about science news?

16. Read the *Science News* article "[Measles erases immune memory](#)" and answer the comprehension questions provided (or review the answers if you've already done so). Based on those answers, how trustworthy do you think the *Science News* article is? How does the article compare with articles about measles from other news outlets that your class has read for this activity?