

Lesson Eight: Identifying Useful Websites

Lesson Overview: In this lesson students will learn some simple questions they can ask about a website to find out whether it is a reliable, quality website that is suitable for their research purposes.

Resources or Materials Needed:

- Internet ready computers. The lesson is based on Microsoft Internet Explorer.
- interactive whiteboard
- projector
- List of Hoax Websites which is included in the accompanying materials.
- Should I use this web site? PowerPoint which is included in the accompanying materials.

Lesson Objective: This lesson is the first of two lessons that will accomplish Performance Objective Number Five, “Given the three web sites chosen in the previous objective, the student will evaluate each website based on Shrock’s 5 W’s. To meet the standard required they will need to score a minimum of 12 points on the rubric that accompanies the 5 W’s worksheet. The 5 W’s worksheet and accompanying rubric are included in the accompanying materials.

Time: Approximately one hour

Preinstructional activities: Show the students a hoax website. There are plenty to choose from – for a complete list see the Lesson 8 List of Hoax Websites that is included in the accompanying materials. Have a look at the site with the students; ask them some questions to see if they can discover the hoax. Ask them if they have any ideas how you could find out if it is genuine. Remind them they can truncate the URL to see if the entity is legitimate. Google the creator if you can find one. Check links, dates, publications etc.

Lesson Eight cont.

Content Presentation: Teacher should share the ‘Should I use this Web Site?’ PowerPoint, which is included in the accompanying materials.

Learner Participation: Choosing one of the websites that you didn’t use in the pre-instructional activity, or choosing a website or your own, set the children the challenge of evaluating a website using the Schrock 5 W’s of Website Evaluation as a trial run for the next lesson in which they will evaluate the three websites they chose in Lesson 7.

Assessment: Worksheets should be evaluated according to the rubric included in the accompanying materials.

Follow-through Activities: Students could be asked to write a paragraph and draw a sketch for a hoax website they would like to design.

Perhaps one of the best hoaxes—Lyle Zapato’s Aluminum Foil Deflector Beanie

The image shows a screenshot of a website designed to look like a legitimate product page for an 'Aluminum Foil Deflector Beanie'. The website has a dark, textured background and a navigation menu with links for Home, Building, Usage & Maintenance, Aluminum Alternatives, History, Testimonials, and Links. The main heading is 'Aluminum Foil Deflector Beanie' with the subtext 'An Effective, Low-Cost Solution To Combating Mind-Control'. Below this is a section titled 'Quick Instructions For Building An AFDB' with four numbered steps and diagrams:

- 1 Get a five foot sheet of aluminum foil (standard one foot wide **Reynolds Wrap** brand will do nicely.)
- 2 Fold the sheet four times into five equal segments so that you end up with a 1x1 foot square, making sure that you fold over the dull side of the foil leaving the square shiny on both sides.
- 3 Use scissors to cut from one corner of the square to the center, making a straight line.
- 4 Bend the foil from one side of the cut under the other, making a slight cone. Again, make sure that the outside of the cone has a shiny side of the foil; this is VERY important.

At the bottom of the page, there are two illustrations: one showing a person wearing a graduation cap, and another showing a person's head with a brain and arrows pointing to it, suggesting the product's intended use for 'mind-control'.

Lesson 8 List of Hoax Web Sites

Aluminum Foil Detector Beanie - <http://zapatopi.net/afdb/> - try Googling the creator

Boilerplate, the Victorian Era Robot - <http://www.bigredhair.com/boilerplate> – Check the books listed in the bibliography on Amazon.

Britain for Americans - <http://www.brookview.karoo.net/BFA/>

British Stick Insect Foundation - http://www.brookview.karoo.net/Stick_Insects/

Buy Dehydrated Water - <http://www.buydehydratedwater.com/>

Click Monkeys - <http://www.clickmonkeys.com/>

Dog Island - <http://www.thedogisland.com/> - An island where dogs can roam free.

First Genetics - <http://www.firstgenetics.com/> – chat with Marty the typing gorilla on the webcam

ComputerTan.com - <http://www.computertan.com/> – if you test the free trial, press esc before the photos appear – they are of skin cancer and may upset younger children.

Funky Shoes - <http://www.stephenswork.com/funkyshoes/index.html>

General Delivery University - <http://www.bandersnatch.com/guide.htm>

Genochoice.com - <http://www.genochoice.com/> – scan your DNA online and get your own profile.

Derrie-Air - <http://flyderrie-air.com/> – World's first carbon neutral airline – Front page is great – don't go to the arcadia project and don't let the children do this one for themselves.

Mary Woodridge - <http://www.mary-woodbridge.co.uk/> - 85 year old woman plans to climb Everest with her dog. Good for younger children. Very obviously fake.

Baby Bush Toys - <http://www.babybushtoy.com/index.html>

Mike the Headless Chicken - <http://www.miketheheadlesschicken.org/index.php>

Mankato, MN - <http://descy.50megs.com/Emankato/mankato.html> - tropical island in Minnesota

Facts About the Civil War - <http://www.idiotica.com/cranium/encyclopedia/content/civilwar.htm>

The Faked Apollo Landings - <http://www.ufos-aliens.co.uk/cosmicapollo.html>