Source Sleuth Sort

Decide which sources are ready to use and which need checking.

6.R.1 "Evaluation and Synthesis of Information Formulate appropriately narrow questions about a research topic and refocus the inquiry when appropriate. Collect information from multiple sources, using search terms effectively..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CREDIBLE SOURCE

A credible source identifies who created it and supports its information with evidence. It is often current and connected to a qualified author or trusted organization.

A university astronomy department article by a professor links to telescope records about comets.

SOURCE TO CHECK

A source to check needs more proof before you use it. It may have no author, no date, unsupported claims, or a goal to sell something.

A flyer promises a crystal bracelet will bring perfect luck, but it names no researcher.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each source description, then circle CREDIBLE or CHECK.

1.	A state health department webpage is updated this year and lists its sources.	CREDIBLE CHECK
2.	A book by a marine biologist includes a bibliography and is published by a science press.	CREDIBLE CHECK
3.	An anonymous post claims that dolphins can predict storms.	CREDIBLE CHECK
4.	An official National Park Service article gives wildfire safety advice and links to safety reports.	CREDIBLE CHECK
5.	A website sells memory pills and says its product is proven, but it links to no study.	CREDIBLE CHECK
6.	A social media image gives a surprising fact but names no original source.	CREDIBLE CHECK
7.	A newspaper report names its reporter, publication date, and people interviewed.	CREDIBLE CHECK
8.	A video says, "This cure works!" but gives no speaker or evidence.	CREDIBLE CHECK

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new example of a CREDIBLE source and one new example of a source to CHECK.

CREDIBLE _____

CHECK _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences explaining which details you would compare if two sources disagreed about the same fact.

ANSWER KEY

Source Sleuth Sort

GRADE 6 · 6.R.1

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A state health department webpage is updated this year and lists its sources.	**CREDIBLE**	It is from an official agency, is current, and lists sources.
2	A book by a marine biologist includes a bibliography and is published by a science press.	**CREDIBLE**	It has a qualified author, a reliable publisher, and a bibliography.
3	An anonymous post claims that dolphins can predict storms.	**CHECK**	It has no identified author or evidence.
4	An official National Park Service article gives wildfire safety advice and links to safety reports.	**CREDIBLE**	It comes from a trusted agency and links to supporting reports.
5	A website sells memory pills and says its product is proven, but it links to no study.	**CHECK**	It is selling a product and gives no supporting study.
6	A social media image gives a surprising fact but names no original source.	**CHECK**	It does not show where the fact came from.
7	A newspaper report names its reporter, publication date, and people interviewed.	**CREDIBLE**	It identifies the reporter, date, and sources of information.
8	A video says, "This cure works!" but gives no speaker or evidence.	**CHECK**	It makes a claim without identifying a speaker or providing evidence.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **CREDIBLE**: A city library database article names its author and lists sources.
- **CHECK**: A blog post makes a claim but does not name a writer or evidence.

Challenge: I would compare the authors, dates, evidence, and sources named by each article. I would use the article from a qualified author that links to reliable evidence.

CHECK does not always mean a source is false. It means the student should verify the author, date, evidence, and purpose before using the information.