

Story & Design: Poornima Meegammana

Artist: Trishan Fernandopulle

## **Fake News**

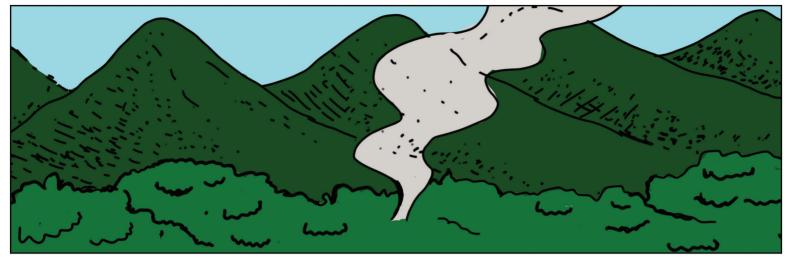
## Introduction:

One of the most important parts of digital literacy (this is the knowledge you have of digital systems) is not only finding information but also checking if that information is good and accurate. You must check if the place from where you received the information can be trusted.

Fake news is a popular phrase, but not a very helpful one to understand what is unreliable or incorrect information, because it can take different shapes and forms:

- Disinformation (deliberately spreading falsehoods)
- Misinformation (unknowingly spreading falsehoods)
- Mal-information (falsehoods spread with the intent of causing harm in society)

False information and images have been around for many many years. In the 21st century, however, the internet and the use of social media has made it much easier to create and /or share falsehoods. Some of these can cause real harm: they can affect society, bring about misunderstanding and quarrels among religious or racial groups, confuse voters at elections, and even threaten a peaceful society by encouraging violence.



























Innocent rabbit got arrested because of the false information shared.

If the information you share is false it can hurt someone.

11.

1 11

## **Lessons Learned**

## Tips on how to spot fake news

- Beware of stories that don't make sense.
- Check the name of the news site that published it.
- Beware of fake website addresses.
- Look out for headlines which don't match the story.
- Look for unusual spellings and mistakes.
- Be wary of headlines which are trying to make people angry.
- Look out for falsehoods spread by fake celebrity accounts.
- Google search the images.
- If you are unsure, double-check with a source you trust.