



Support for new teachers

Thinking activity: Fact or opinion

Fact or opinion

This activity is to help students consider different viewpoints and decide if they are based on fact or opinion. It encourages students to form their own opinions and consider the views of others. In geography we are often faced with alternatives and have to judge their veracity.

Many text resources can be used for this activity. Students work through the sheet in pairs and decide what statements are facts and which are opinions. They can either record them on a table, or highlight them a different colour in the text (one colour for fact and one for opinion). The activity works well with newspaper articles. The subsequent discussion is important and should be allowed to run, although the teacher might intervene to explain vocabulary or terms. The debriefing should consider the evidence they used to decide if a statement was a fact or not.

Reference

- Leat, D. (1998) *Thinking through geography*. Cambridge: Chris Kington Publishing

Case studies to illustrate

- Leat's examples are: *Antarctica, Los Angeles riots, Nature's numbers*

(Last updated May 2017)