

Scientifically Speaking

A look at how science is reported in the media



?

Russian cows get virtual-reality glasses to help them ward off winter blues

?

Coronavirus: Fears 5G wifi networks could be acting as 'accelerator' for disease

?

Could we soon have superhero NIGHT VISION? Brain implants could give us a 'sixth sense' by making us see infrared

?

100% NATURE
INSPIRED
FRAGRANCE

NASA funds 3D Pizza Printer



Name(s):

Library Group:

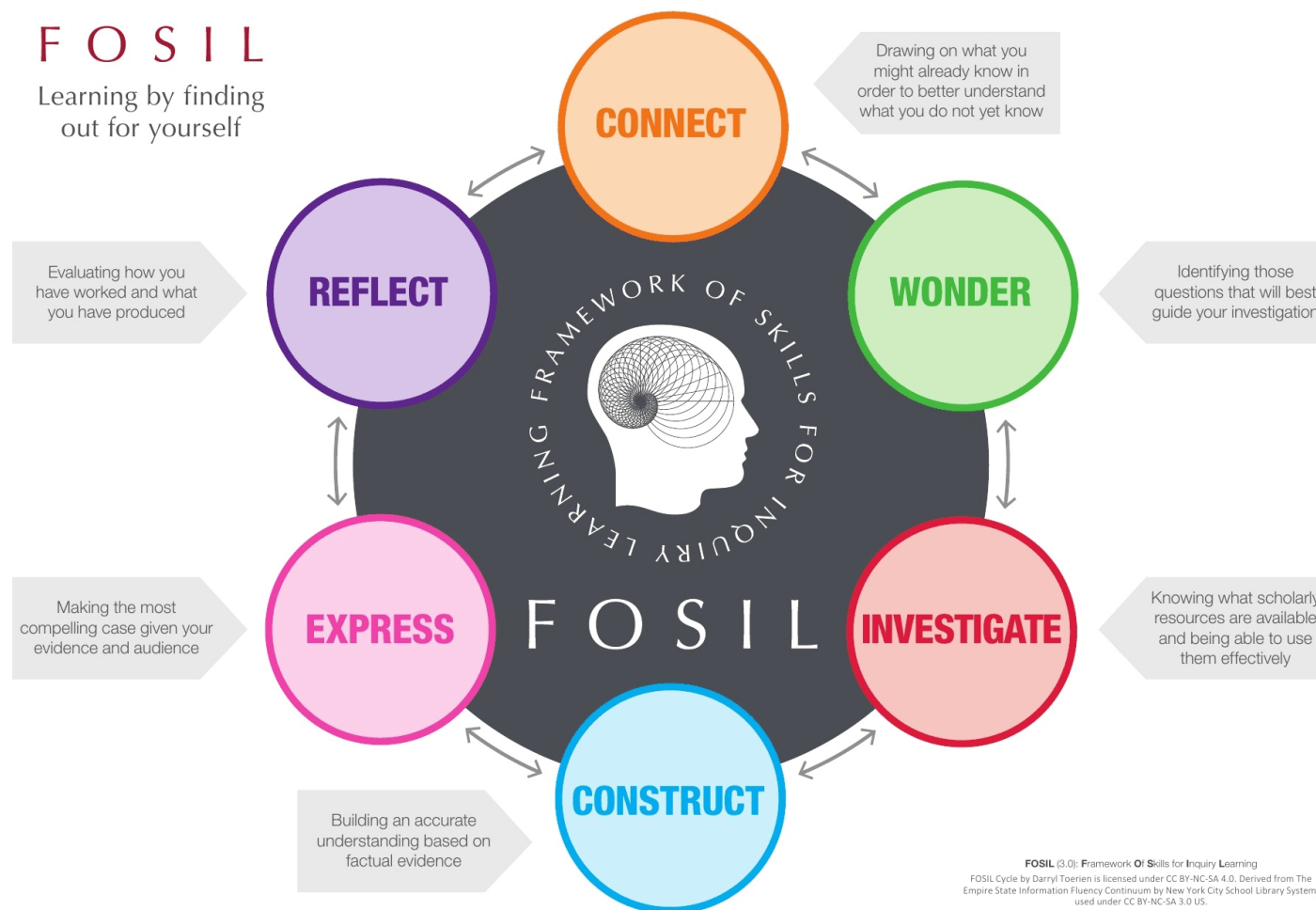
Form:

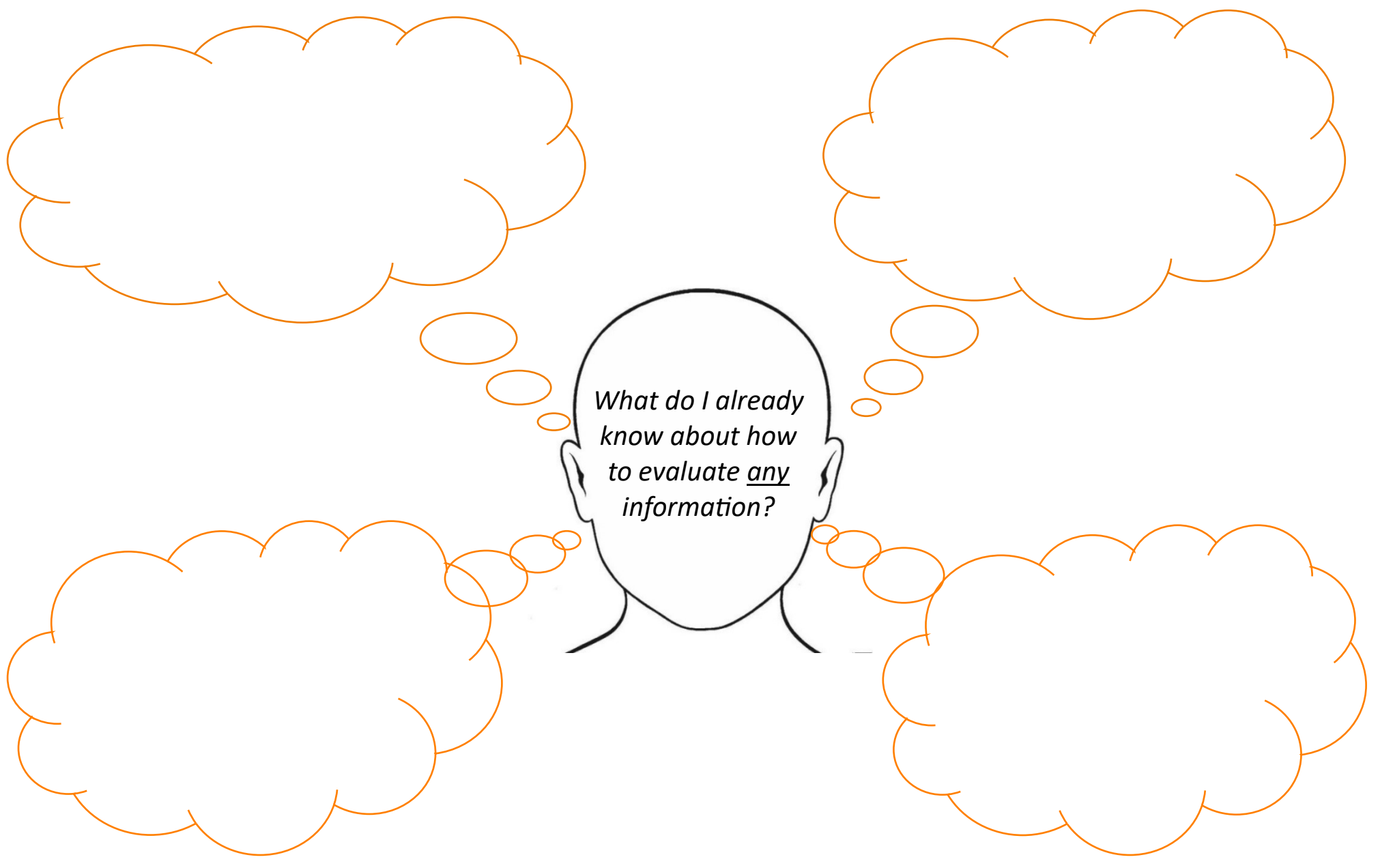
For our Science in the Media project we will look at science information and writing in particular and think about what we have to consider when we are evaluating them as sources of information.

We will think about how science is communicated in the media, such as In the news or adverts.

This is an opportunity to put the research and information skills you are learning in your library lessons into practice and see how they are valuable for any subject.

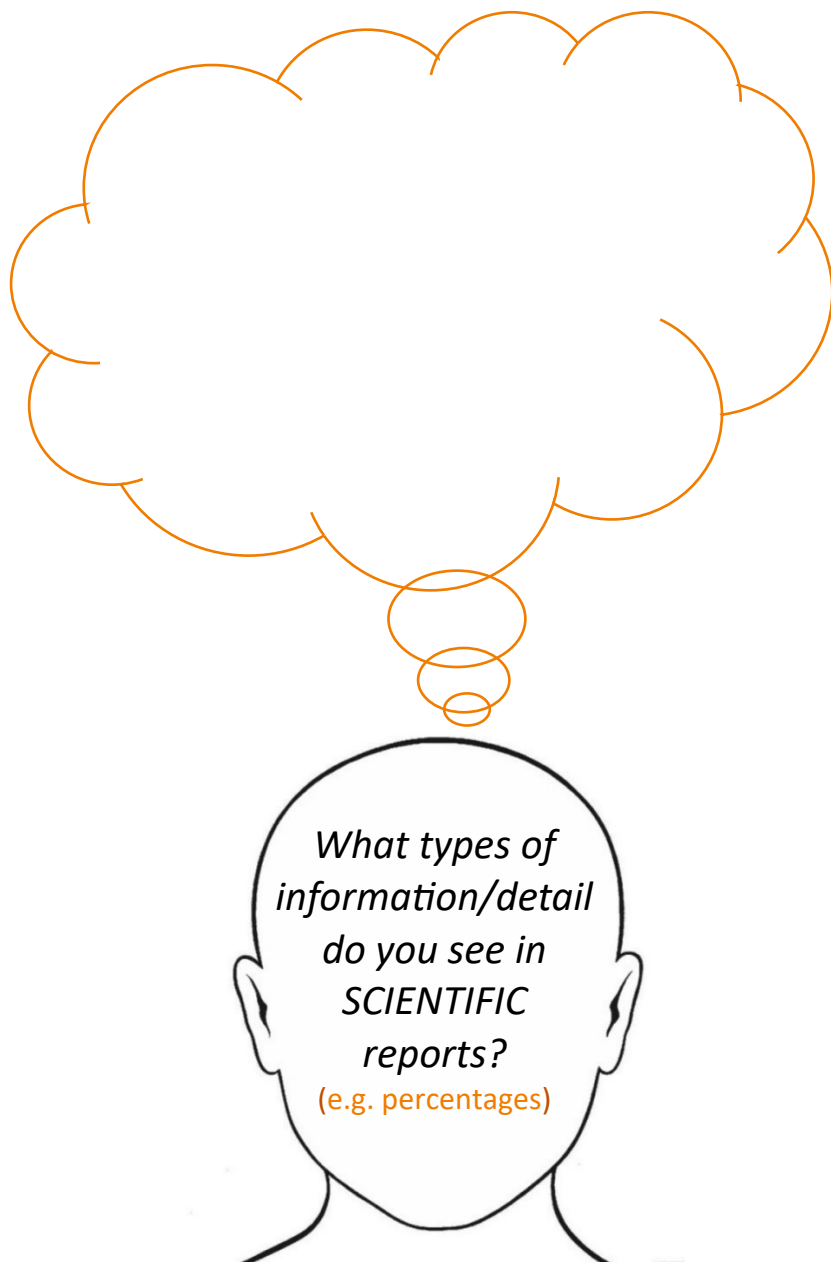
We will use the FOSIL framework to do our research.





What do I already know about how to evaluate any information?

What do I already know about my topic?



What do I already know about my topic?

Write down some KEYWORDS you might find in SCIENTIFIC writing (e.g. results):

Remind yourself of TRAAP and what it stands for when you are evaluating information:

T
R
A
A
P



**What kinds of questions do I
need to ask to help me evaluate
SCIENTIFIC information?**

E.g. How up to date is this scientific information ?

...?

...?

...?

...?

...?

SCIENCE EDITOR FOR THE DAY

When a Science Editor is preparing a document for publication in print or online, they are working under pressure and have several things to think about:

- *Is the information in the right order?*
- *Is the article within the word limit?*
- *When is the deadline for publication?*
- *Is the information accurate?*
- *What is the source of the information?*

TASK 1—You have been given a science article to get ready for publication on the front page of a national newspaper.

- ⇒ The article has been cut into pieces!
- ⇒ You need to put the paragraphs in the correct order
- ⇒ You have 5 minutes...

TASK 2—Your article has been bumped from the front page and your word count has been reduced.

- ⇒ Reduce your article by about a third
- ⇒ Think about what you will remove and why

Write down what you had to think about in order to stick to the word limit and deadline?

How did you decide what to leave in and what to leave out?

What was most challenging in this task?

THE NEWS BUG

You are going to construct a News Bug to help you evaluate some scientific articles using the questions we identified earlier.

Cut out your News Bug:

- On each leg of your News Bug write a **different** one of the questions and fix it to its body.
- Look at each question in turn and consider it in relation to your article.
- If the article answers that question, leave that leg sticking out.
- If the article doesn't answer that question, tuck that leg under the body.
- The more legs that are left sticking out, the more reliable your scientific article is.

Here are the questions to write onto the News Bug's legs:

1. Do you know who wrote this article?
2. Do you know which publication this article appeared in?
3. Do you know who carried out the research described?
4. Do you know how the research was carried out?
5. Is there a good description of any results or conclusions?
6. Is there any information about what other scientists think?

Also ask yourself:

Can you understand the scientific information given?



News Article 1	News Article 2
Title of Article:	Title of Article:
Author of Article:	Author of Article:
Title of Magazine/Newspaper/Website:	Title of Magazine/Newspaper/Website:
How many News Bug legs did you have left after evaluating your article?:	How many News Bug legs did you have left after evaluating your article?:
What requirements were missing from your article?:	What requirements were missing from your article?:

TASK—You are now going to write up your Science in the Media activity in a report format. Remember to use your keywords and the glossary to help you to explain what you did and what conclusion you have come to.

You will do this work in your Science exercise book.

- Choose one of the two articles we have looked at (*Russian cows... OR Home on the Moon*).
- Write the article title at the top of your page and underline it.
- Write out the first News Bug question and underline it for a subheading.
- Underneath the subheading, describe whether or not the article you've chosen answers this question and include evidence to back this up.
- Repeat this activity for each of the six News Bug questions.
- Write a brief conclusion at the end, stating how trustworthy and accurate you think this article is.

When your report has been written, you will reflect on this activity by completing a Forms survey.