

Information on the Internet

The internet is a very useful research tool but how do you know what resources to trust?

Some sources are generally reliable such as government sites, UN agencies such as UNICEF, organisations such as the BBC or well-known charities such as Oxfam or Save the Children. Other resources may come from a particular point of view but, with awareness of bias, may provide you with useful and often first-hand information. You should be able to find information to either balance or help verify the information on a site with clear bias.

Anyone can create a website. It is important to find out the author's identity and purpose for creating the website in order to establish if it will give you the information you need. One way to find out a little about the author is to look at the suffix of the domain name. For example www.amnesty.org The suffix .org tells you Amnesty International is a non-profit organisation.

A website author could be a government agency (.gov) a commercial company (.com), a non-profit organisation (.org) a network of computers (.net) or a country specific site (.uk) or an individual

Find an example of each of these authors and say whether you expect the information there to be reliable or biased.

Find four websites that provide information on Palestine and Israel.

Which do you consider to be reliable and why?

Examine 2 film extracts. *Israel and Palestine: A Very Short Introduction* and *Israel and Palestine: An Illustration*. They each represent a particular point of view.

Watch both film clips. In your group, discuss what you learned from each film and decide which was from an Israeli point of view and which from a Palestinian point of view.

Why did you arrive at your decision? You may consider sympathetic, persuasive or critical language; facts weighted in favour or one or the other; or any other evidence that helped you decide.

Activity 1 - Website author

Suffix	Author of website	Reliable/Biased	Why?

Activity 2 – Websites Palestine and Israel

Suffix	Author of website	Reliable/Biased	Why?

Activity 3 – A Particular Point of View

Title	Point of view Israeli or Palestinian?	How do you know
Israel and Palestine: A Very Short Introduction		
Israeli and Palestine: An Illustration		