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Learn

In life in general or in a test:

- A **fact** is true and can be proved.
- An **opinion** is what someone thinks or believes.

You need to be able to tell the difference between facts and opinions.

In the passage below, there is one **fact** and one **opinion**.

Henry VIII

Without doubt, **Henry VIII was the greatest king of England. The changes he made in his lifetime**, particularly to the Church, **still affect people today**.



- **Fact:** The fact is that Henry's changes do *still affect us today*. **Can this be proved? Yes.** He was the founder of the Church of England. It still exists.
- **Opinion:** 'Henry VIII was *the greatest king of England*.' **Can this be proved? No.** He existed and he was a king, but was he a great king or the greatest? That is a matter of opinion. It's like saying, Real Madrid are the best football team.

The text makes it seem as if Henry was the greatest king. How? Look at the opening phrase. 'Without doubt' disguises the opinion by making it seem like it is true without giving any evidence. It is possible to measure the tallest, widest, shortest and so on. It is not possible to measure and compare 'greatness'.

✓ Tip

To tell if something is a fact, ask the question, 'Can it be proved?'

Key words

fact
opinion

What is the difference between fact and opinion?



Be careful! Sometimes opinions are disguised as facts.

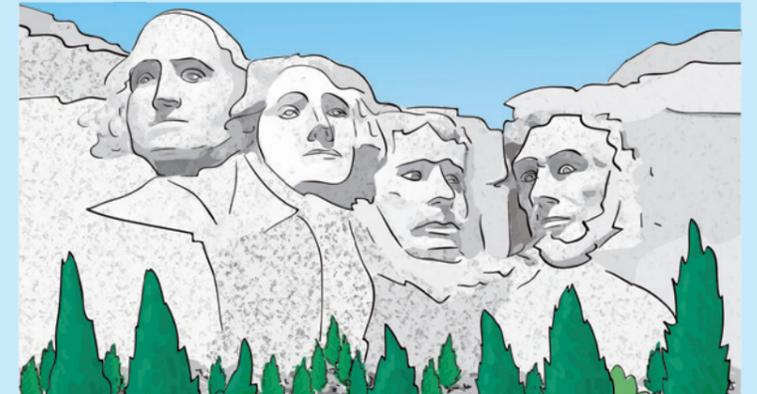


Activities



Read the following passage.

Mount Rushmore National Memorial is one of the most amazing sculptures ever made. Started in 1927 and finished in 1941, the memorial was carved into the granite face of Mount Rushmore in South Dakota. There are four huge heads of presidents of the United States: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln. It was a hard choice! Originally, the figures were meant to be carved from the waist up but the project ran out of money so only the heads were completed. Such a sculpture will never be achieved again.



1. Copy the table and put a tick in the correct box to show whether each of the following statements is fact or opinion.

	Fact	Opinion
Mount Rushmore National Memorial is one of the most amazing sculptures ever made.		
The memorial was carved into the granite face of Mount Rushmore in South Dakota.		
The project ran out of money.		
Such a sculpture will never be achieved again.		

2. Find and copy three facts from the passage that are not included in the table above.
3. Find and copy one other opinion.

✓ Tip

Watch out for '**weasel words**'. They're slippery and hard to get hold of. 'Probably' and 'possibly' are two weasel words. They usually tell us that something **is not a fact**.