Fact or Fiction?

- Do you know any strange or interesting facts?
- Have you ever met someone who believed in a ridiculous fact or theory?
- What are some common "facts" that people believe that are actually myths?
- Have you ever believed a "fact" that you later found out was a myth?

Did you know that if you drop a penny from the empire state building it would kill someone if it landed on them??....Well, actually this is a myth. A penny is too small to fall fast enough to kill someone.

1. You are going to watch a video about some of the most commonly believed myths. Read through the 14 statements below with a partner and decide which 7 are true, and which 7 are false. Use the phrases in the box to help you discuss them with your partner.

I doubt it	I'm pretty sure that's true/false	That seems pretty unlikely
That's probably correct	Actually I think that's true/false	
No way!	I'm on the fence about that	It's possible I guess

1. Humans only use 10% of our brains. *False*
2. Napoleon was short. *False*
3. Newborn babies can't make tears, so technically they can't cry. *True*
4. You can tell what colour egg a chicken will lay based on the colour of its ear lobes. (For example, chickens with white ear lobes will lay white eggs.) *True*

5. Touching baby birds makes their mothers reject them. *False*
6. Bubble wrap was originally invented as wallpaper. *True*
7. The Sun makes up 99.9% of the mass in our solar system. *True*

8. Vikings wore horned helmets. *False*
9. Albert Einstein failed math in high school. *False*
10. The English word with the most definitions is the word "set." *True*
11. Bananas have a curved shape because they reach for the sun when they grow. *True*
12. The great wall of China is visible from space. *False*

13. The unicorn is the national animal of Scotland. *True*
14. Undercover police officers in America have to tell you they are police officers if you ask them. *False*

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2. Now watch the video 13 things you think are true, but aren't.[1] Seven of the fake facts mentioned are in exercise 1. Mark which facts are fake while listening to the video.

a) How many did you get right?

b) Which of the 13 "fake facts" surprised you the most?

c) Which of the 13 "fake facts" have you heard of before? Did you believe in any of them?

3. Match the vocabulary (which was used in the video) to the definition.

a. hoax	1. The state of being awake and aware B
b. conscious	2. A person who explores space *C*
c. astronaut	3. An entertaining idea or story that was deliberately made up *A*
d. propaganda	4. Informal word for a police officer *F*
e. rumour	5. An unconfirmed story that many people are talking about *E*
f. cop	6. False information designed to mislead, usually made by governments *D*

4. Watch the video again and answer the questions.

a) Where did the idea that Napoleon was short come from? *British war propaganda*

b) Why is there no such thing as cow-tipping? *Cows sleep lying down*

c) What were George Washington's teeth made of? *Gold, lead, Hippopotamus bones and donkey teeth*

d) What torture device was made up as a hoax in the 19th century? *Iron Maiden*

e) One of the myths is that a man named Thomas Crapper invented the *toilet*

5. Optional task/homework: Choose one of the seven true facts from exercise 1. Research this fact and present what you found to your class.

[1] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oA-fc3D09ZY&ab_channel=CollegeHumor

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