

# Conspiracy Theories and Debunking Basics

Social Studies · Answer Key · 10 Questions

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## 1. What is a conspiracy theory?

- A) A widely accepted explanation for an event.
- B) An explanation for an event that invokes a secret plot by powerful groups.**
- C) A scientific theory supported by extensive evidence.
- D) A historical account based on primary sources.

## 2. Which of the following is a common characteristic of conspiracy theories?

- A) Reliance on verifiable evidence.
- B) Acknowledgement of alternative explanations.
- C) Distrust of official accounts and authorities.**
- D) Focus on scientific consensus.

## 3. What is 'debunking' in the context of conspiracy theories?

- A) Creating new conspiracy theories.
- B) Presenting evidence and reasoning to disprove a conspiracy theory.**
- C) Spreading conspiracy theories further.
- D) Agreeing with the conspiracy theory.

## 4. A key aspect of debunking is examining the evidence presented by a conspiracy theory. What should one look for?

- A) Emotional appeals and anecdotes.
- B) Sources with a clear agenda.
- C) Factual accuracy and verifiable sources.**
- D) Unsubstantiated claims.

## 5. Which of the following is an example of a reliable source for factual information?

- A) An anonymous blog post.
- B) A peer-reviewed scientific journal.**
- C) A social media comment.
- D) A forum discussion without citations.

## 6. What is confirmation bias in relation to conspiracy theories?

- A) The tendency to seek out and interpret information that confirms one's existing beliefs.**
- B) The process of thoroughly researching all sides of an argument.
- C) An objective assessment of all available evidence.
- D) A willingness to change one's mind based on new information.

**7. When encountering a claim that seems too extraordinary, what is a reasonable first step?**

- A) Share it widely on social media.
- B) Accept it as truth.
- C) Seek corroborating evidence from credible sources.**
- D) Dismiss it without investigation.

**8. What does it mean to fact-check a claim?**

- A) To invent a new explanation.
- B) To verify the accuracy of a statement using reliable sources.**
- C) To spread misinformation.
- D) To agree with the person making the claim.

**9. Why is it important to understand the difference between correlation and causation when evaluating claims?**

- A) Because correlation always implies causation.
- B) Because many conspiracy theories wrongly assume causation from correlation.**
- C) Because causation is always unprovable.
- D) Because correlation and causation are the same thing.

**10. Which of these is a common logical fallacy found in conspiracy theories?**

- A) Occam's Razor (the simplest explanation is often the best).
- B) Argument from ignorance (claiming something is true because it hasn't been proven false).**
- C) Deductive reasoning.
- D) Empirical evidence.