

The Digital Literacy Series: Fake News

Can You Avoid Falling for Fake News?

| Feathering the Nest

Imagine that you are scrolling through your social media news feed and you come across this distressing image of a dead seagull:



"Oregon Beach dead seagull" by vaxomatic is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Accompanying the photograph is a headline that reads "5G Blamed for Dead Birds on Local Beaches." The accompanying article claims that 5G towers are interfering with birds' ability to navigate, causing them to fly incessantly until dying from exhaustion. Hundreds of dead birds have washed up on beaches near your area. The article urges people to click a link to sign a petition against the continuing construction of 5G towers.

You're about to click when you pause.

1. Is there anything about the photograph that arouses your suspicions? What is it and why?

2. Find the image online. Which website did it originally come from?

3. When and where was the photograph taken?

4. What might happen if you click the link the article to sign the petition?

5. Based on what you have found out about the image, would you click the link and share the story so your friends can all sign? Explain your answer.
