



ENHANCING DIGITAL READINESS BY
OVERCOMING FAKE NEWS, INFORMATION IN
SOCIAL MEDIA

2024-1-FR02-KA210-YOU-000247518

UnfakeSoMe Games

Lateral Reading TRUTH TREK

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

[Unfake Social Media Erasmus+ Project](#) © 2025 by [European Solidarity Association](#) is licensed

under [CC BY 4.0](#)





Name of the game	Truth Trek
About the game	Truth Trek is an engaging and interactive board game where players navigate a path filled with challenges designed to test their ability to fact-check news articles. Players must critically analyse sources, authors, and publication dates to determine if information is reliable, misleading, or entirely false. The game encourages teamwork, strategic thinking, and media literacy.
Number of players	4-6 players (teams of 2-3)
Recommended age	14+ years
Game duration	30-45 minutes
Objective	Players must analyze news articles as they progress on the board, determining whether they are credible, misleading, or fake. The objective is to reach the "Truth Summit" (finish line) while maintaining a high accuracy rate in fact-checking.

Game setup	1. Game Board Design The board is a winding path divided into spaces, each representing different types of challenges or obstacles. Board Layout: • Start: "Information Wilderness" – Players begin their journey navigating unreliable information. • Paths & Spaces: • Regular Spaces – Safe spaces where players simply move forward. • Verification Challenges – Players must verify a news article card using lateral reading techniques. • Misinformation Traps – These are penalties that force teams to lose a turn or move backward if they fail a fact-checking challenge. • Fact-Checking Power-ups– Helpful boosts such as access to a fact-checking website, an extra attempt, or a bonus movement. • Diverging Paths: Players may have the option to take a shorter but more difficult route or a longer but safer one. • Finish Line: "Truth Summit" – The first team to arrive with an accuracy score of at least 80% wins. 2. Game Components • Game Board (custom-designed with different paths and checkpoints) • Dice (1) (used for movement) • Player Tokens (one for each team) • News Article Deck (50+ cards with real, misleading, and fake articles) • Fact-Checking Power-Up Cards (allow special actions) • Score Tracker & Accuracy Sheet (for keeping track of verification success)
--------------------------	--



	• Timer (optional) (for timed challenges)
Game flow	1. Starting the Game 1. Players form teams (2-3 players per team). 2. Each team places their token on the "Information Wilderness" (start). 3. Shuffle the News Article Deck and place it face down. 4. Each team rolls the dice—highest roll goes first. 2. Turn Sequence Each team follows this sequence during their turn: 1.Roll the Dice: Move forward the corresponding number of spaces. 2.Draw a Card: If landing on a Verification Challenge, draw a news article card. 3.Fact-Check Challenge: Use lateral reading strategies to determine if the article is real, misleading, or fake within 2 minutes. Teams discuss and provide reasoning. 4.Judge the Answer: A game moderator (or other teams) cross-checks the answer using a fact-checking guide. • Correct: Earn points and move forward. • Incorrect: Lose a turn or move backward if on a misinformation trap. • Use Power-Ups (if available): Teams may use Fact-Checking Power-Up Cards to aid their verification process. 3. Special Board Spaces & Challenges • Verification Challenge: Players must: • Check the source (Is it credible? Well-known?) • Analyze the author (Do they have expertise? Bias?) • Examine the publication date (Is it outdated or manipulated?) • Misinformation Traps :

	• If a team fails a fact-check, they either lose a turn or move back 2 spaces. • Fact-Checking Power-Ups: • "Use Google Search" – Search for more information. • "Consult a Fact-Checker" – Use sites like Snopes or PolitiFact. • "Re-Evaluate" – Get a second attempt at a challenge. 4. Winning the Game • The first team to reach the Truth Summit with at least 80% accuracy wins! • If multiple teams arrive, the one with the highest accuracy percentage wins.
Outcomes	• Develops fact-checking skills in an interactive way. • Encourages strategic thinking while navigating misinformation. • Raises awareness about misleading information tactics. • Makes learning about media literacy fun!

Step	Outlined instructions
1. Setup	Have participants form 2 to 3 teams of equal players. Each team selects a team token and places it at the starting point("Information Wilderness") on the board. Shuffle the News Article Deck and place it face down. Place the Fact-Checking Power-Up Cards nearby. Each team gets a Score Tracker Sheet and a pen. Explain the objective: Reach the "Truth Summit" while maintaining at least 80% fact-checking accuracy.
2. Starting the game	Teams take turns rolling the dice. The highest roll goes first. On their turn, a team rolls the dice and moves forward on the board. If they land on a Verification Challenge, Misinformation Trap, or Fact-Checking Power-Up, they must follow the instructions based on the space they land on.

3. Gameplay flow	1.Verification Challenges: The team draws a News Article Card, reads it aloud, and has 2 minutes to determine if it is real, misleading, or fake using fact-checking techniques. They must explain their reasoning. 2.Misinformation Traps: If they answer incorrectly, they lose a turn or move back 2 spaces. 3.Fact-Checking Power-Ups: If they land here, they draw a Power-Up Card that can help in future challenges (e.g., "Use Google Search" or "Consult a Fact-Checker"). The game continues in this pattern.
4. Scoring & Winning	Teams earn points for each correct fact-check: +3 points for source verification, +3 for author analysis, +2 for checking date context, and +2 for using fact-checking power-ups effectively. The first team to reach the "Truth Summit" with at least 80% accuracy wins. If multiple teams finish, the team with the highest score wins.
5. Post-game reflection	Lead a discussion with teams about their experience. Use questions like: What strategies helped you verify articles? What misinformation traps were hardest to detect? How will you apply these fact-checking skills in real life? Encourage players to reflect on how misinformation spreads and how to be responsible media consumers.

Scoring System

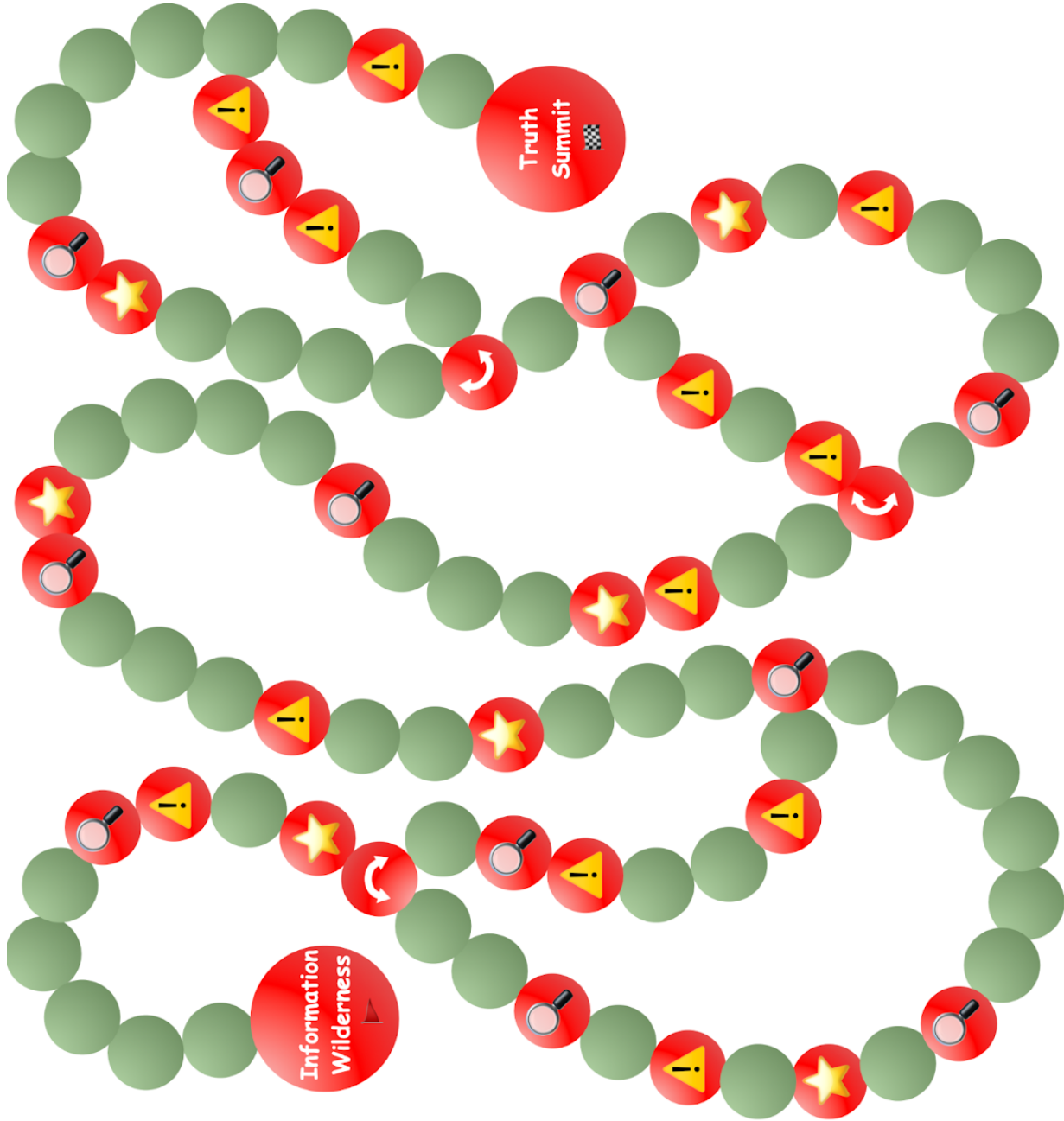
Points are earned based on correct fact-checking decisions:

Category	Criteria	Points
Source Verification	Correctly identifies credibility of a source	+3
Author Analysis	Determines if the author is reliable or biased	+3
Date Context	Assesses if the article is outdated or misleading	+2
Bonus Points	Uses fact-checking power-ups effectively	+2

Game-End Reflection Round Questions



Fact-Checking & Media Literacy	• What strategies helped you verify articles effectively? • What were the biggest challenges in identifying misinformation? • How often do you fact-check information in your daily life? • Have you ever shared something online that turned out to be false? How did you react? • What sources do you personally trust for news, and why? • How can we encourage others to fact-check before sharing news?
Misinformation & Bias	• Did any fake news articles seem believable at first? Why? • What techniques did misleading articles use to appear credible? • How can recognizing bias help in evaluating news? • How does confirmation bias influence the way people perceive news?
Real-Life Application	• What are the dangers of misinformation in today's world? • How do social media algorithms affect what news we see? • How can you apply what you've learned in Truth Trek to make better-informed decisions? • What habits can you develop to become a more responsible consumer of news? • How can fact-checking skills be useful outside of news consumption (e.g., school, work, personal life)?



Truth Trek Board Game



Verification Challenge
Draw a News Article card and decide if it's REAL/MISLEADING/FAKE within 2 minutes. Earn points for correct analysis.



Misinformation Trap
Risky space! Draw a News Article card and fact-check it. If you're wrong, you lose a turn or move back 2 spaces. If correct, you stay safe (no points gained).



Fact-Checking Power-Up
Draw a Power-Up card. Use it at any time to help you with challenges or gain bonuses.



Diverging Path
Choose your route! From this space, you must decide: take the shorter but riskier path or the longer but safer path.



News Article Deck (50 cards)

#1

Headline

NASA Confirms
Discovery of Water
on the Moon

Source

National Geographic

Date

Oct 2020

#2

Headline

Eating Chocolate Daily
Prevents All Cancers

Source

healthtipsdaily.net

Date

Feb 2015

#3

Headline

Local Town Bans Ice
Cream Trucks After
Noise Complaints

Source

ReputableLocalNews.com

Date

July 2022

#4

Headline

WHO Warns of New
Seasonal Flu Strain

Source

BBC News

Date

Jan 2023

#5

Headline

Aliens Discovered
Living Under
Antarctica

Source

truthrevealedblog.org

Date

May 2017

#6

Headline

City Library Expands
Digital Book Collection

Source

CityGazette

Date

Aug 2023

#7

Headline

Drinking Bleach Can
Cure Viral Infections

Source

wellnessdaily.co

Date

Dec 2020

#8

Headline

Government Plans to
Replace Teachers with
Robots by 2026

Source

techrumors.net

Date

Nov 2022

#9

Headline

Scientists
Successfully Clone
Endangered Rhino

Source

Nature

Date

March 2021

#10

Headline

Bananas Are Now
Classified as Illegal
Drugs

Source

clickbaitzone.com

Date

April 2019

#11

Headline

Local School
Implements Media
Literacy Classes

Source

LocalNewsToday

Date

Feb 2023

#12

Headline

New Study Finds
Coffee Improves
Memory

Source

ScienceDaily

Date

May 2021

#13

Headline

Politician Caught
Speaking to Ghosts in
Parliament

Source

gossiphub.net

Date

Sept 2018

#14

Headline

Popular Social Media
App Fined for Privacy
Violations

Source

Reuters

Date

Dec 2022

#15

Headline

Drinking Only Soda
Can Extend Lifespan

Source

healthmiracle.com

Date

June 2017

#16

Headline

Wildfires Increase
Due to Climate Change

Source

National Geographic

Date

Aug 2023



#17

Headline
New Device Lets You
Read Minds

Source
futuretechbuzz.com

Date
Mar 2022

#18

Headline
World Leaders Agree
on Global Climate Pact

Source
Associated Press

Date
Nov 2021

#19

Headline
Man Grows Wings
After Eating GMOs

Source
fakefactsdaily.com

Date
July 2019

#20

Headline
Scientists Warn About
Ocean Plastic
Pollution

Source
Nature

Date
Feb 2020

#21

Headline
Study Shows Video
Games Cause Mind
Control

Source
paranoiaweekly.org

Date
May 2015

#22

Headline
City Opens New
Recycling Plant

Source
CityNews

Date
April 2023

#23

Headline
New App Reads Your
Thoughts Through
Phone Camera

Source
techbuzz.info

Date
Jan 2022

#24

Headline
Health Experts
Recommend Regular
Exercise

Source
WHO

Date
March 2021

#25

Headline
Dinosaurs Found
Living in Remote
Jungle

Source
legendsrevealed.net

Date
Oct 2018

#26

Headline
Local High School
Wins National Science
Competition

Source
LocalTimes

Date
May 2022

#27

Headline
Scientists Create Mini
Black Hole in Lab That
Eats Light

Source
sensationalspace.com

Date
June 2021

#28

Headline
Major Bank Introduces
Digital-Only Currency

Source
Forbes

Date
Feb 2023

#29

Headline
Tomatoes Now
Classified as
Endangered Species

Source
randomfactsnow.net

Date
Aug 2020

#30

Headline
Study Finds Social
Media Affects Mental
Health

Source
Psychology Today

Date
Dec 2021

#31

Headline
New Phone App Cures
Depression Instantly

Source
miracletechnews.com

Date
Jan 2021

#32

Headline
Local Hospital Opens
New Cancer Treatment
Center

Source
LocalHealthNews

Date
July 2023



Co-funded by
the European Union





#33

Headline
Robots Will Replace
All Human Jobs by
2030

Source
techfear.org

Date
Sept 2019

#34

Headline
Polar Ice Melting
Faster Than Expected

Source
National Geographic

Date
June 2022

#35

Headline
Drinking Lemon Juice
Prevents COVID-19

Source
naturalremedynews.net

Date
May 2020

#36

Headline
Government Funds
New Renewable
Energy Research

Source
The Guardian

Date
April 2023

#37

Headline
Alien Signal Detected
from Mars

Source
spaceinsider.net

Date
Feb 2022

#38

Headline
School District Adds
Mental Health
Counselors

Source
LocalDaily

Date
Oct 2023

#39

Headline
Eating Raw Onions
Makes You Invisible

Source
weirdtruth.org

Date
July 2017

#40

Headline
UN Warns of Rising
Global Hunger

Source
BBC News

Date
May 2022

#41

Headline
New Pill Makes People
Live to 200 Years Old

Source
immortalitydaily.com

Date
Nov 2018

#42

Headline
Scientists Develop
Biodegradable Plastics

Source
Scientific American

Date
Jan 2021

#43

Headline
Sharks Now Living in
Local Swimming Pools

Source
odditiesreport.net

Date
Aug 2021

#44

Headline
Local Museum Opens
Interactive History
Exhibit

Source
CityTimes

Date
March 2023

#45

Headline
Phone Radiation
Causes Instant Brain
Damage

Source
conspiracywatch.net

Date
June 2020

#46

Headline
Major Tech Company
Launches AI Assistant

Source
Reuters

Date
April 2022

#47

Headline
Scientists Clone
Extinct Dinosaur from
Fossil DNA

Source
jurassicdaily.com

Date
Jan 2021

#48

Headline
Local Bakery Wins
National Award

Source
LocalLife

Date
Sept 2023

#49

Headline
Clouds Are
Government
Surveillance Drones

Source
conspiraciesuncovered
.com
Date
May 2019

#50

Headline
Researchers Develop
Vaccine for New Virus

Source
BBC News
Date
Jan 2023

News Article Deck with comments for moderator

#	Headline	Source	Date	Type	Clues (for moderator)
1	NASA Confirms Discovery of Water on the Moon	National Geographic	Oct 26, 2020	REAL	Well-known credible source, current
2	Eating Chocolate Daily Prevents All Cancers	healthtipsdaily.net	Feb 2015	FAKE	Unknown site, sensational claim, old
3	Local Town Bans Ice Cream Trucks After Noise Complaints	ReputableLocalNews.com	July 2022	MISLEADING	True event but missing context (allowed only at certain hours)
4	WHO Warns of New Seasonal Flu Strain	BBC News	Jan 2023	REAL	Trusted outlet, common health alert



5	Aliens Discovered Living Under Antarctica	truthrevealedblog.org	May 2017	FAKE	Conspiracy site, no evidence
6	City Library Expands Digital Book Collection	CityGazette	Aug 2023	REAL	Local verified news site
7	Drinking Bleach Can Cure Viral Infections	wellnessdaily.co	Dec 2020	FAKE	Dangerous misinformation, no evidence
8	Government Plans to Replace Teachers with Robots by 2026	techrumors.net	Nov 2022	MISLEADING	Satirical tone, misleading headline
9	Scientists Successfully Clone Endangered Rhino	Nature	March 2021	REAL	Peer-reviewed science journal
10	Bananas Are Now Classified as Illegal Drugs	clickbaitzone.com	April 2019	FAKE	Absurd claim, clickbait site
11	Local School Implements Media Literacy Classes	LocalNewsToday	Feb 2023	REAL	Plausible, credible local source



12	New Study Finds Coffee Improves Memory	ScienceDaily	May 2021	REAL	Known science aggregator
13	Politician Caught Speaking to Ghosts in Parliament	gossiphub.net	Sept 2018	FAKE	No evidence, gossip site
14	Popular Social Media App Fined for Privacy Violations	Reuters	Dec 2022	REAL	Major credible outlet
15	Drinking Only Soda Can Extend Lifespan	healthmiracle.com	June 2017	FAKE	Unsupported, extreme claim
16	Wildfires Increase Due to Climate Change	National Geographic	Aug 2023	REAL	Supported by data
17	New Device Lets You Read Minds	futuretechbuzz.com	Mar 2022	MISLEADING	Real tech, headline exaggerates ability
18	World Leaders Agree on Global Climate Pact	Associated Press	Nov 2021	REAL	Trusted wire service

19	Man Grows Wings After Eating GMOs	fakefactsdaily.com	July 2019	FAKE	Absurd, no evidence
20	Scientists Warn About Ocean Plastic Pollution	Nature	Feb 2020	REAL	Scientific consensus
21	Study Shows Video Games Cause Mind Control	paranoiaweekly.org	May 2015	FAKE	Baseless conspiracy
22	City Opens New Recycling Plant	CityNews	April 2023	REAL	Local source, verifiable
23	New App Reads Your Thoughts Through Phone Camera	techbuzz.info	Jan 2022	MISLEADING	Tech exists but cannot literally read thoughts
24	Health Experts Recommend Regular Exercise	WHO	March 2021	REAL	Global trusted authority
25	Dinosaurs Found Living in Remote Jungle	legendsrevealed.net	Oct 2018	FAKE	Outlandish claim
26	Local High School Wins National	LocalTimes	May 2022	REAL	Verifiable event

	Science Competition				
27	Scientists Create Mini Black Hole in Lab That Eats Light	sensationalspace.com	June 2021	MISLEADING	Black hole analogy used, not literal
28	Major Bank Introduces Digital-Only Currency	Forbes	Feb 2023	REAL	Known credible business source
29	Tomatoes Now Classified as Endangered Species	randomfactsnow.net	Aug 2020	FAKE	No credible evidence
30	Study Finds Social Media Affects Mental Health	Psychology Today	Dec 2021	REAL	Peer-reviewed article
31	New Phone App Cures Depression Instantly	miracletechnews.com	Jan 2021	FAKE	Unsupported health claim
32	Local Hospital Opens New Cancer Treatment Center	LocalHealthNews	July 2023	REAL	Plausible and verifiable
33	Robots Will Replace All	techfear.org	Sept 2019	MISLEADING	Speculative, not supported



	Human Jobs by 2030				
34	Polar Ice Melting Faster Than Expected	National Geographic	June 2022	REAL	Evidence-based report
35	Drinking Lemon Juice Prevents COVID-19	naturalremedynews.net	May 2020	FAKE	Unsupported claim
36	Government Funds New Renewable Energy Research	The Guardian	April 2023	REAL	Credible news source
37	Alien Signal Detected from Mars	spaceinsider.net	Feb 2022	MISLEADING	Detected radio noise, not alien message
38	School District Adds Mental Health Counselors	LocalDaily	Oct 2023	REAL	Verified source
39	Eating Raw Onions Makes You Invisible	weirdtruth.org	July 2017	FAKE	Impossible claim
40	UN Warns of Rising Global Hunger	BBC News	May 2022	REAL	Trusted global source



41	New Pill Makes People Live to 200 Years Old	immortalitydaily.com	Nov 2018	FAKE	No scientific evidence
42	Scientists Develop Biodegradable Plastics	Scientific American	Jan 2021	REAL	Trusted science source
43	Sharks Now Living in Local Swimming Pools	odditiesreport.net	Aug 2021	FAKE	Absurd, impossible
44	Local Museum Opens Interactive History Exhibit	CityTimes	March 2023	REAL	Credible local
45	Phone Radiation Causes Instant Brain Damage	conspiracywatch.net	June 2020	FAKE	Debunked claim
46	Major Tech Company Launches AI Assistant	Reuters	April 2022	REAL	Trusted outlet
47	Scientists Clone Extinct Dinosaur from Fossil DNA	jurassicdaily.com	Jan 2021	MISLEADING	Fiction-inspired exaggeration



48	Local Bakery Wins National Award	LocalLife	Sept 2023	REAL	Verifiable
49	Clouds Are Government Surveillance Drones	conspiraciesuncovered.com	May 2019	FAKE	Baseless conspiracy
50	Researchers Develop Vaccine for New Virus	BBC News	Jan 2023	REAL	Trusted, timely



Fact-Checking Power-Up Cards (20 cards)

#1 Power Use Google Search Effect Look up 1 fact about the article (1 min limit).	#2 Power Consult a Fact-Checker Effect Use Snopes/PolitiFact for 1 clue.	#3 Power Re-Evaluate Effect Retry a failed challenge immediately.	#4 Power Ask the Moderator Effect Get 1 yes/no hint from moderator.
#5 Power Time Freeze Effect Gain +1 minute to analyze an article.	#6 Power Switch Article Effect Discard and draw a new News Article card.	#7 Power Double Points Effect Double your points on next success.	#8 Power Trap Shield Effect Ignore penalty from a  Misinformation Trap.
#9 Power Collaboration Boost Effect Ask another team one question (they must answer honestly).	#10 Power Fast Forward Effect Move +2 spaces after winning a challenge.	#11 Power Skip Turn Effect Skip the next opposing team's turn.	#12 Power Power Recall Effect Reuse one Power-Up you already used.
#13 Power Expert Opinion Effect Get a clue from a "guest expert" (moderator gives 1 fact).	#14 Power Accuracy Audit Effect Gain +5 bonus accuracy points if you win your next challenge.	#15 Power Safety Net Effect If you fail, you don't lose a turn this time.	#16 Power Article Swap Effect Trade your challenge article with another team's article.

#17 Power Shortcut Path Effect Jump forward to the next ★ Power-Up space on the board.	#18 Power Shield of Logic Effect Cancel a misleading clue from another team.	#19 Power Team Huddle Effect Pause and discuss for 1 extra minute (no timer running).	#20 Power Lucky Guess Effect If unsure, make a guess — if correct, gain triple.
--	--	---	---

#	Card Name	Effect
1	Use Google Search	Look up 1 fact about the article (1 min limit).
2	Consult a Fact-Checker	Use Snopes/PolitiFact for 1 clue.
3	Re-Evaluate	Retry a failed challenge immediately.
4	Ask the Moderator	Get 1 yes/no hint from moderator.
5	Time Freeze	Gain +1 minute to analyze an article.
6	Switch Article	Discard and draw a new News Article card.
7	Double Points	Double your points on next success.
8	Trap Shield	Ignore penalty from a ⚠ Misinformation Trap.
9	Collaboration Boost	Ask another team one question (they must answer honestly).
10	Fast Forward	Move +2 spaces after winning a challenge.



11	Skip Turn	Skip the next opposing team's turn.
12	Power Recall	Reuse one Power-Up you already used.
13	Expert Opinion	Get a clue from a "guest expert" (moderator gives 1 fact).
14	Accuracy Audit	Gain +5 bonus accuracy points if you win your next challenge.
15	Safety Net	If you fail, you don't lose a turn this time.
16	Article Swap	Trade your challenge article with another team's article.
17	Shortcut Path	Jump forward to the next ★ Power-Up space on the board.
18	Shield of Logic	Cancel a misleading clue from another team.
19	Team Huddle	Pause and discuss for 1 extra minute (no timer running).
20	Lucky Guess	If unsure, make a guess — if correct, gain triple