



# Investigate

Is *This* Source  
Reliable?





You've found a source online.  
But now you're wondering: Is it  
reliable?





## Step #1: Don't make more work for yourself.

If your source is one of these lists or approved by your teacher, start researching!

- [List of best news websites for students from Common Sense Education](#)
- [List of the best sites for teaching and learning from the American Library Association](#)





**Step #2: If your source isn't on the lists,  
it's time to start...LATERAL READING!**

These tips and tools about lateral reading come  
from the [Stanford History Education Group](#).





## What is lateral reading?

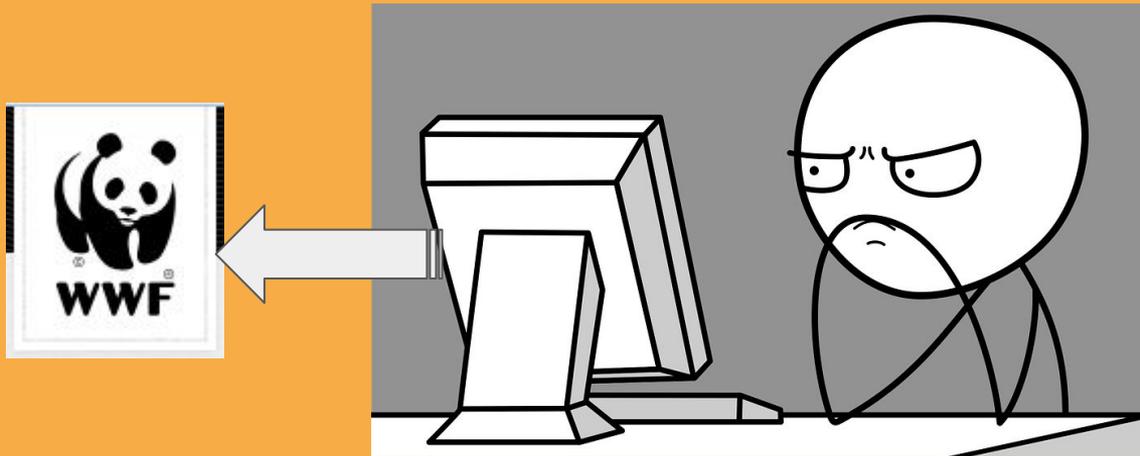
Lateral reading is reading **about** a website before you read the actual site.

It's what professional fact checkers do to see if an internet source is reliable.



## Lateral reading in action

Your search for “polar bear” info pulled up an article from the World Wildlife Fund. Cute panda logo, but do these people know what they are talking about?





## Lateral reading in action

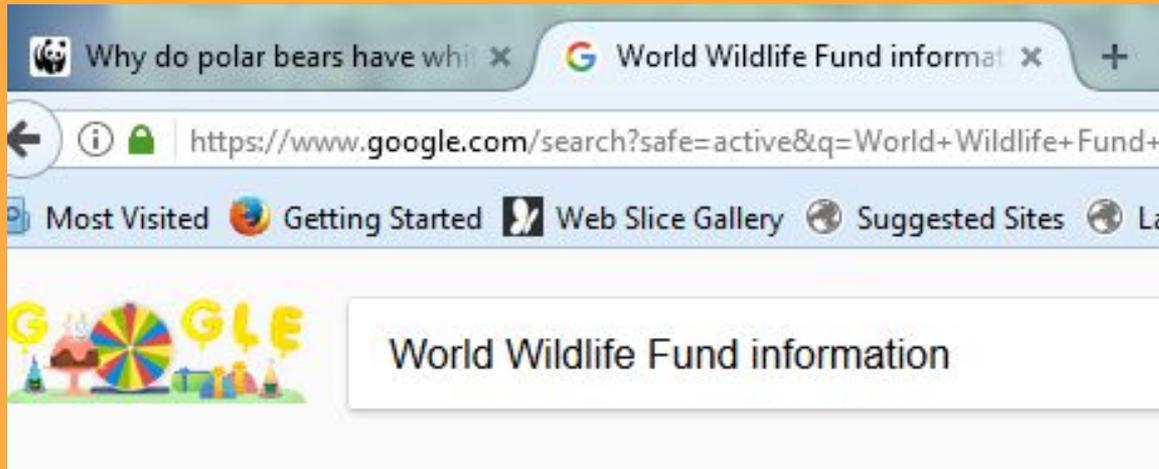
Don't read the article yet! Open a new tab on your browser instead.





## Lateral reading in action

Type “World Wildlife Fund information” into the search bar. You are searching for what other sources say about the World Wildlife Fund.





## Lateral reading in action

Click on a website that is NOT the World Wildlife Fund. Wikipedia works well for this. Read what an independent source says about the World Wildlife Fund.

Independent  
source, click  
here!



[WWF in Brief | WWF](#)

[wwf.panda.org/wwf\\_quick\\_facts.cfm](http://wwf.panda.org/wwf_quick_facts.cfm)

WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by: conserving the world's biological diversity.

**This is a World Wildlife site, don't click.**

[About WWF | WWF](#)

[wwf.panda.org/who\\_we\\_are/](http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/)

For more than half a century, WWF has been working to protect the world's species ... use the best available scientific information to address issues and critically ...

**This one too. Don't click.**

[World Wide Fund for Nature - Wikipedia](#)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/en:World\\_Wide\\_Fund\\_for\\_Nature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/en:World_Wide_Fund_for_Nature)

In the 1990s, WWF revised its mission statement to: Stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by: conserving the world's biological diversity; ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable; [and]





## Lateral reading in action

You see that the World Wildlife Fund is an established conservation organization. If you keep reading, you'll find some people love it; others don't. But it's safe to say it's a reliable source for polar bear information. Go ahead and read that article!

### World Wide Fund for Nature

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **World Wide Fund for Nature** (**WWF**) is an [international non-governmental organization](#) founded in 1961, working in the field of the wilderness preservation, and the reduction of humanity's footprint on the [environment](#). It was formerly named the **World Wildlife Fund**, which remains its official name in [Canada](#) and the [United States](#). The living planet report is published every two years by WWF since 1998, it is based on living planet index and ecological footprint calculation.

It is the world's largest [conservation organization](#) with over five million supporters worldwide, working in more than 100 countries, supporting around 1,300<sup>[4]</sup> conservation and environmental projects. WWF is a foundation,<sup>[5]</sup> with 55% of funding from individuals and bequests, 19% from government sources (such as the [World Bank](#), [DFID](#), [USAID](#)) and 8% from corporations in 2014.<sup>[6]</sup>

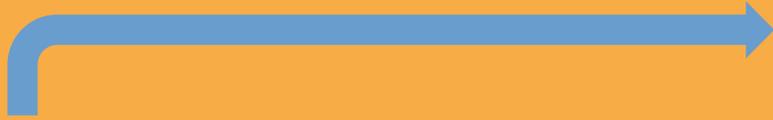




## Let's review verifying sources using lateral reading:

- First, read **about** the source; don't read the source itself!
- Open a new tab and search for information about your source.
- Find what others are saying about it.
- Decide if your source is valid.
- If so, read it! If not, keep looking!





Not sure what a reliable source even is?

Check out [What IS a Reliable Source Anyway?](#)

