

THE TRUTH IS WEIRDER*

*than the story you were told

Free classroom resource

Ages 9–13 · ~12 min episodes

History & media literacy

A fact-checked history podcast that puts a famous “fact” **on trial** every episode. Cass tells the story everyone knows. Pip checks the evidence. Then they show you exactly how they know.

Why teachers use it

- ✓ Every episode **names its primary sources**, so students see where “facts” actually come from.
- ✓ We **publish corrections** when we get something wrong, so it models how real evidence works.
- ✓ Built around the one question you already teach: **“How do we actually know that?”**
- ✓ Short and self-contained: a lesson starter, a debate prompt, or a car-trip listen.

What’s in an episode

- 1. The claim.** A “fact” everyone repeats (horned Viking helmets, the Great Wall from space).
- 2. The evidence.** What the sources, and the gaps, actually say.
- 3. The verdict.** What’s true, what’s weirder, and how you could check it yourself.

CURRICULUM Supports historical-inquiry & critical-literacy strands

AUSTRALIA

HASS / History: historical questions, sources & evidence, perspectives.

ENGLAND (UK)

KS2 History: historical enquiry, evidence & interpretation.

NEW ZEALAND

Aotearoa NZ Histories: “Do the mahi”, inquiry & sources.

IRELAND

Primary History: working as a historian, using evidence.

USA

C3 Framework / Common Core: sourcing, evidence, media literacy.

CANADA

Historical Thinking: evidence & the ethical dimension.

A supporting resource, not an official curriculum product. Map episodes to your own scheme of work.

DISCUSS

Four questions that work for any episode

- 1** What did you already “know” about this, and where did you first hear it?
- 2** What evidence did Pip find? Is it a primary source or someone repeating a story?
- 3** Why might a myth spread and stick, even when it isn’t true?
- 4** How would you fact-check a “fact” you saw online today, using the same steps?

TRY THIS EPISODE

Vikings & the horned helmets

The story you were told: Vikings wore big horned helmets into battle.

The evidence: not one horned battle-helmet has ever been dug up. The look was popularised by an 1876 opera costume designer.

Ask: so why does everyone still picture the horns?

Lesson starter

Play one episode, then run the four questions as a 10-minute warm-up.

Evidence hunt

Pause before the verdict. Students predict, then check against the sources named.

Home / relief task

Set an episode + one question as low-prep homework or a car-trip listen.

Listen free on Spotify & more:
thetruthisweirder.com

Made by **Jamzel Studio**. We invite feedback and episode suggestions, including sources you think we’ve missed. Email hello@thetruthisweirder.com.