# Unit 2: Does science tell the truth?

###### Lesson 3: Pupil Resource 2

You believe it but can you prove it?

Everyone has beliefs. A lot of our beliefs are the same as those of our friends and family and we hold them because we have grown up in the same culture. But we also hold individual beliefs that may be different from other people’s.

Here are some of the beliefs of a girl called Sandie:

* *Chips are bad for me (but I eat them anyway).*
* *If you tell lies you will always get found out.*
* *Man U are the best football team.*
* *Beds with soft mattresses are the most comfortable.*
* *Dreams tell us about the future.*
* *My teeth are made of bone.*

Just how do we know what to believe?

Do we just believe what we are told, or do we often use evidence to decide what is correct?

What evidence has Sandie got for believing?:

Chips are bad for you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Liars always get found out \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Man U are the best team \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Soft mattresses = most comfortable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dreams tell the future \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Her teeth are made of bone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Here are some ideas: She may have got her evidence from:

TV

school lessons

what her parents tell her what her friends think

charts and data

her senses

books

the internet

coincidences

past experiences.

Some evidence for beliefs is more reliable than other evidence. For instance

Sandie’s parents told her that they were going to fly to Disneyland Paris for Sandie’s birthday the very day after Sandie had dreamed she was in an aeroplane. Is this good evidence for believing that dreams tell the future?

If she had lots of dreams, and they all seemed linked to what happened next day, would this be more reliable evidence? Why?