How to search the Internet successfully.

There are some great sites on the Internet but can you always trust what you read? I was shown this great website called "Dog Island" the other day. It's an amazing web site about an island just for dogs where they can go on vacation and live happily. This island sounds fantastic but I'm really not sure about it so want you to help me find out more information about the island. Here's the URL – take a few minutes to explore the site on your own and then turn and talk to the person next to you about the website.

How do we know if we can trust a site? There are a couple of key pieces of information that will help us decide if we can trust a site or not. Each of us needs to make up our minds if we can trust the site but these key pieces of information can help us. Talk to the person on your other side about the following:

- Does this website have connections to reputable organisations?
- Is the information up to date?
- What is the purpose of this website?
- Who is the audience?
- Is it easy to find your way around?
- Who is linking to this site?

In a group, share your thoughts. What do you notice? Who is linking to this web site?

How did the author sell this site as real? What aspects of the site make it seem real at first glance? These websites are made for you to think they are real. They want you to explore them and what they are really hoping for is that you click on an ad so the author gets paid.

Now, work in teams to explore one of the links below. Can you figure out if the site is real or fake? Report back to the class with your findings.

Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus

Pacific Tree Frog

The Federal Vampire and Zombie Agency

Guinea Farm

Save the Guinea Worm