



Dark Secrets: **Conspiracy Theories**

1. What is a conspiracy theory?

2. What do conspiracy theorists believe was the motivation for faking the moon landing in 1969?

3. What do flat earthers think the world looks like?

4. Name two popstars who are believed to have been replaced in secret.

5. How much did Denver International Airport cost to build?

6. Describe one of the strange works of art at Denver International Airport.

7. What is a Freemason?

8. Who is David Icke?



9. Why do conspiracy theorists believe the assassination of John F Kennedy is not as it seems?

10. Who killed Lee Harvey Oswald, and why?

Extension

Why do you think people believe in conspiracy theories?

Are there any conspiracy theories you believe in? What are they, and why do you believe them?

Do you think there is any harm in conspiracy theories?





Dark Secrets: Conspiracy Theories - Answers

1. What is a conspiracy theory?

A theory that the “official” version of events surrounding an event is not true, and that people in power are controlling or manipulating the truth.

2. What do conspiracy theorists believe was the motivation for faking the moon landing in 1969?

They believe that, because the USA was involved in the space race with Russia, they knew they would not be able to land on the moon first, so they faked it in order to “win” the race.

3. What do flat earthers think the world looks like?

They believe that the earth is a flat circle with the Arctic in the centre. Around the outside of the circle is a 150ft wall of ice, which stops people falling off into space.

4. Name two popstars who are believed to have been replaced in secret.

Avril Lavigne and Paul McCartney.

5. How much did Denver International Airport cost to build?

\$4.8bn.

6. Describe one of the strange works of art at Denver International Airport.

Either:

- **a painting featuring a soldier in a gas mask brandishing a gun and stabbing a dove;**

or

- **a painting showing a child in a funeral casket, while other children flee a forest fire – supposedly showing a world out of sync with nature;**

or

- **the sculpture of a 32-foot high blue horse with red glowing eyes, nicknamed Blucifer.**

7. What is a Freemason?

A member of a male-only secret society which meets in “lodges”. They have special symbols, clothing and ceremonies, as well as their own handshake, so they can recognise other Masons without explicitly stating their membership.

8. Who is David Icke?

A former professional football player, now a conspiracy theorist who believes that the world is controlled by a race of alien reptiles called the Babylonian Brotherhood, who can shape-shift into human form and control humanity.

9. Why do conspiracy theorists believe the assassination of John F Kennedy is not as it seems?

Because there were more shots fired than originally thought; the bullet did not seem to come from where Oswald was standing; Oswald never confessed and said he had been set up; the case never came to trial, as Oswald was murdered.

10. Who killed Lee Harvey Oswald, and why?

Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby in order to spare Mrs Kennedy the upset of a trial.



Extension

Why do you think people believe in conspiracy theories?

Answers could explore:

- **the fact that people don't always understand science and prefer to believe their own version of events;**
- **that people take comfort in the fact that someone is controlling them and they have no power over their own destiny;**
- **that governments and people in power have sometimes been caught manipulating the truth, so the public no longer have any trust in them.**

Are there any conspiracy theories you believe in? What are they, and why do you believe them?

Answers should give a detailed explanation of why the student finds the theory convincing.

Do you think there is any harm in conspiracy theories?

Answers should explore the impact that these theories can have on individuals (for example, causing distress to Avril Lavigne by claiming she is really dead), and the effect they can have on public morale (trying to discredit the enormous amount of work which went into the moon landings, for example). Answers could also explore the idea that perhaps politicians lie to protect the public – by keeping details of the Kennedy assassination secret, for example, and whether or not there is ever an excuse for hiding the truth.