



Make a claim you can defend

Background reading for teachers

This reading lists the sources behind all twelve claims.

The twelve claims

Each verdict is a judgement based on the best evidence available in 2026. Some are clear-cut, while others, such as the sunscreen claim, involve genuine scientific uncertainty. That uncertainty is worth discussing rather than hiding. Lessons 1 and 2 cover the fuller stories behind claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 10 and 11.

Sources

1. Claim 1: Ward and Reddy, PNAS, 2020
2. Claim 2: AAP FactCheck, 2023
3. Claim 3: The Straight Dope, 2002. Snopes.
4. Claim 4: NOAA
5. Claim 5: IPCC, 2021
6. Claim 6: OECD, 2022
7. Claim 7: Uppsala University. Retraction Watch.
8. Claim 8: National Academies, 2022. Smithsonian.
9. Claim 9: Live Science
10. Claim 10: Grubbs and others, Scientific Reports, 2016
11. Claim 11: Thoen and others, Science, 2014
12. Claim 12: Meijer and others, Science Advances, 2021

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