

Name: _____
Read the passage and select the best answer for each question.

CONSPIRACY THERORIES

What is a conspiracy theory? A conspiracy theory is a story that implies that a community of people, known as conspirators, have opted to do something illegal or evil and try to conceal it from the public. These stories usually have little evidence to support their theory. However, some conspiracy theories have been found to have some component of truth behind their story.

There are many conspiracy theories known throughout the public. One is that the astronauts in 1969 didn't really land on the moon. People believe that Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong faked the moon landing by acting out the landing on a movie set that looked like the moon. There are a few details that make people believe it was fake. First, people say that the flag planted by Aldrin was waving. In order for a flag to wave, air needs to be pushing the flag. There is no air in outer space hence why people think this is a hoax. Aldrin claims that the twisting of the pole to get it planted on the moon is what caused the flag to look like it was waving. Another detail that supports the conspiracy theory is the movie 2001: A Space Odyssey. The production of this movie back in 1968 proves that the technology was existent at the time to support the theory of the moon landing being faked on a movie set.

Another conspiracy theory that people believe in is Area 51. Located in southern Nevada, Area 51 is a secret U.S. air force military operation. It is a known flight testing sight. However, conspirators believe that this location is the focus of extraterrestrial life. This conspiracy theory has formed due to the reports of UFO sightings in the area. The government was using Area 51 to test new aircraft being built, such as the U-2 and other technologically advanced aircraft. These aircraft are sleeker and faster than commercial airplanes, so it is possible people thought these new aircrafts were UFOs. Also, there was a man who worked there in the late 1980s who claimed the government was researching a recovered alien aircraft. It was later discovered that this man had lied about his education, discrediting his claims about the government researching the aircraft. It was at this point that the conspiracy theory regarding Area 51 began to grow.

Conspiracy theories have been around for dozens of years. People have brought up several valid reasons as to why they believe in these stories. Do you believe in them?



1. What text evidence BEST supports the claim that the moon landing was a conspiracy?

- "People believe that Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong faked the moon landing by acting out the landing on a movie set that looked like the moon."
- "Conspiracy theories have been around for dozens of years. People have brought up several valid reasons as to why they believe in these stories."
- "First, people say that the flag planted by Aldrin was waving. In order for a flag to wave, air needs to be pushing the flag. There is no air in outer space hence why people think this is a hoax. Aldrin claims that the twisting of the pole to get it planted into the moon is what caused the flag to look like it was waving."
- "There are many conspiracy theories known throughout the public. One is that the astronauts in 1969 didn't really land on the moon"

2. What inference can the reader draw from "Conspiracy theories have been around for dozens of years. People have brought up several valid reasons as to why they believe in these stories. Do you believe in them?"

- The author does not believe that conspiracy theories are true.
- The author is concluding this passage with a question to get the reader to come to their own conclusion.
- The author does not know if conspiracy theories are true and is inquiring to the reader for an answer.
- The author believes that conspiracy theories exist but that many people do not look at the evidence pointing towards the possibility that they are true.

3. What detail from paragraph 1 infers that conspiracy theories are a debated topic?

- The author explains what a conspiracy theory is.
- The author explains the negative connotations that conspiracy theories have.
- The author explains that conspiracy theories often do not have evidence to support them, but that some have had some truth within them.
- The author explains the details of the conspiracy theory of the moon landing.

4. What sentence supports the claim that Area 51 focuses on extraterrestrial life?

- "It was later discovered that this man had lied about his education, discrediting his claims about the government researching the aircraft."
- "The government was using Area 51 to test new aircrafts being built, such as the U-2 and other technologically advanced aircrafts."
- "It was at this point that the conspiracy theory regarding Area 51 began to grow."
- "Also, there was a man who worked there in the late 1980s who claimed the government was researching a recovered alien aircraft."

5. What text evidence supports the claim that the moon landing was NOT staged on a movie set?

- "the twisting of the pole to get it planted into the moon is what caused the flag to look like it was waving"
- "the production of this movie back in 1968 proves that the technology was existent at the time to support the theory of the moon landing being faked on a movie set."
- "First, people say that the flag planted by Aldrin was waving."
- "A conspiracy theory is a story that implies that a community of people, known as conspirators, have opted to do something illegal or evil and try to conceal it from the public."

KEY

CONSPIRACY THEORIES

What is a conspiracy theory? A conspiracy theory is a story that implies that a community of people, known as conspirators, have opted to do something illegal or evil and try to conceal it from the public. These stories usually have little evidence to support their theory. However, some conspiracy theories have been found to have some component of truth behind their story.

There are many conspiracy theories known throughout the public. One is that the astronauts in 1969 didn't really land on the moon. People believe that Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong faked the moon landing by acting out the landing on a movie set that looked like the moon. There are a few details that make people believe it was fake. First, people say that the flag planted by Aldrin was waving. In order for a flag to wave, air needs to be pushing the flag. There is no air in outer space hence why people think this is a hoax. Aldrin claims that the twisting of the pole to get it planted on the moon is what caused the flag to look like it was waving. Another detail that supports the conspiracy theory is the movie 2001: A Space Odyssey. The production of this movie back in 1968 proves that the technology was existent at the time to support the theory of the moon landing being faked on a movie set.

Another conspiracy theory that people believe in is Area 51. Located in southern Nevada, Area 51 is a secret U.S. air force military operation. It is a known flight testing sight. However, conspirators believe that this location is the focus of extraterrestrial life. This conspiracy theory has formed due to the reports of UFO sightings in the area. The government was using Area 51 to test new aircraft being built, such as the U-2 and other technologically advanced aircraft. These aircraft are sleeker and faster than commercial airplanes, so it is possible people thought these new aircrafts were UFOs. Also, there was a man who worked there in the late 1980s who claimed the government was researching a recovered alien aircraft. It was later discovered that this man had lied about his education, discrediting his claims about the government researching the aircraft. It was at this point that the conspiracy theory regarding Area 51 began to grow.

Conspiracy theories have been around for dozens of years. People have brought up several valid reasons as to why they believe in these stories. Do you believe in them?



1. What text evidence BEST supports the claim that the moon landing was a conspiracy?

- a. "People believe that Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong faked the moon landing by acting out the landing on a movie set that looked like the moon."
- b. "Conspiracy theories have been around for dozens of years. People have brought up several valid reasons as to why they believe in these stories."
- c. **"First, people say that the flag planted by Aldrin was waving. In order for a flag to wave, air needs to be pushing the flag. There is no air in outer space hence why people think this is a hoax. Aldrin claims that the twisting of the pole to get it planted into the moon is what caused the flag to look like it was waving."**
- d. "There are many conspiracy theories known throughout the public. One is that the astronauts in 1969 didn't really land on the moon"

2. What inference can the reader draw from "Conspiracy theories have been around for dozens of years. People have brought up several valid reasons as to why they believe in these stories. Do you believe in them?"

- a. The author does not believe that conspiracy theories are true.
- b. **The author is concluding this passage with a question to get the reader to come to their own conclusion.**
- c. The author does not know if conspiracy theories are true and is inquiring to the reader for an answer.
- d. The author believes that conspiracy theories exist but that many people do not look at the evidence pointing towards the possibility that they are true.

3. What detail from paragraph 1 infers that conspiracy theories are a debated topic?

- a. The author explains what a conspiracy theory is.
- b. The author explains the negative connotations that conspiracy theories have.
- c. **The author explains that conspiracy theories often do not have evidence to support them, but that some have had some truth within them.**
- d. The author explains the details of the conspiracy theory of the moon landing.

4. What sentence supports the claim that Area 51 focuses on extraterrestrial life?

- a. "It was later discovered that this man had lied about his education, discrediting his claims about the government researching the aircraft."
- b. "The government was using Area 51 to test new aircrafts being built, such as the U-2 and other technologically advanced aircrafts."
- c. "It was at this point that the conspiracy theory regarding Area 51 began to grow."
- d. **"Also, there was a man who worked there in the late 1980s who claimed the government was researching a recovered alien aircraft."**

5. What text evidence supports the claim that the moon landing was NOT staged on a movie set?

- a. **"the twisting of the pole to get it planted into the moon is what caused the flag to look like it was waving"**
- b. "the production of this movie back in 1968 proves that the technology was existent at the time to support the theory of the moon landing being faked on a movie set."
- c. "First, people say that the flag planted by Aldrin was waving."
- d. "A conspiracy theory is a story that implies that a community of people, known as conspirators, have opted to do something illegal or evil and try to conceal it from the public."