Truth or Lie?

An activity of "Fake news about immigrants is causing them harm".

The spreading of fake news can lead to horrific consequences. Read "Fake news about immigrants is causing them harm" (page 9, *What's Up* October 2024).

A. Using the story, fill in the details of the harm that the respective fake news caused.

Where & when	The fake news	The harm it caused
1. Springfield, US, this year.	There were false rumours that Haitian immigrants were eating local pets.	♦ *Because of the fake news, the Haitian immigrants did not feel safe in Springfield.* ♦ ♦
2. Europe in the Middle Ages, centuries ago.	There was a false belief that Jews murdered Christians for their blood and that the leaders met annually to decide which Christian to kill.	♦ ♦
3. India, in recent times.	Fake news were circulated, saying that Muslim minorities were involved in slaughtering cows, which are sacred to Hindus.	♦

B. In the space below, write a true story of an incident that happened to you recently. Then use your imagination to write another one that is false. Include details to make both stories interesting and believable.

True story: _____

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False story: _____

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C. How good are you at spotting false stories? To get some practice, form small groups. Get each member to share their true and false stories, while the rest ask questions using the 5Ws (who, what, where, when, why) to guess which stories are false.

When discerning false stories:

• Get as many details as you can by asking questions.

• Take note of details that contradict or do not make sense as these are signs that the story is false.

• Try asking a few questions about facts that you know the answers to. For example, if you know the price of a ticket to the zoo, ask how much the ticket is. If the answer is incorrect, that may indicate that the story is false.