Instructions: Use the following to identify Credible Resources for your research.

What's the difference between a ***primary source*** and a ***secondary source***? For science research, primary sources are original materials not filtered or interpreted by another person or organization. Examples include papers, dissertations, interviews, lab notebooks, study reported in a journal article, and technical reports. A secondary source provides commentary, analysis, discussion, or opinion on the primary source. Examples include review articles, blogs, opinion editorials, newspapers, and news media sources.

URL #1:			
URL #2:			
URL #3:			
Check if Yes ✔			**Criteria for a credible source**
Source #1	**Source #2**	**Source #3**	
			1. Is the website an organization [.org], educational institution [.edu], or government [.gov] site? ***If not, see #2, otherwise go to #3.***
			2. Is the website hosted by a ***periodical***, such as a science journal or magazine that publishes science research?
			3. In **Google**, type ***link://*** in front of the home page URL and hit enter. The number in the search result is how many times that page has been linked to as a reference or resource. Is that a big number, such as hundreds of thousands or more? ***If yes, see #4. Otherwise go to #5.***
			4. Investigate the sources (URL's) that have linked to the page. Start at the first link that is not an internal link. Are most of them considered credible sources, such as other .org, .edu, or .gov sites?
			5. Read the "*About us*" section. Is there a list of names for the contributors to the site? ***If yes, see #6, otherwise go to #7.***
			6. Do a search for one of those contributors. Are you able to find information about that person and verify their experience they are advertising on the website? Does their experience match the purpose of the website?
			7. Do links on the page work, meaning they are unbroken?
			8. Is the source a primary source?
			9. Total Score for each resource (total # of checkmarks for each column)

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Check if Yes ✔			Criteria for a ***non*-credible source**
Source #1	**Source #2**	**Source #3**	
			1. Is the website a .com or .net site?
			2. Is the website hosted by a blog, satire site (spoof or parody sites that exaggerate truth using humor), or an opinion editorial page?
			3. Does the site use ***loaded language*** or ***biased language***? (These are words that are chosen to influence the reader to react a certain way that is sympathetic to the author's cause using emotion or stereotypes)
			4. Investigate the sources (URL's) that have linked to the page. Are most of them considered non-credible sources?
			5. Is there a list of sponsors or paid for advertisements for the website? ***If yes, see #6, otherwise go to #7.***
			6. Are the sponsors biased toward one opinion, goal, or cause?
			7. Are links broken and/or has the page not been updated recently?
			8. Is the source a secondary source?
			9. Total Score for each resource (total # of checkmarks for each column)

Now, compare the total checkmarks for each URL. For each URL, put a checkmark in either "*It's Credible, It Might be Credible*, or *It's Not Credible*." You can only choose one.

URL	# of Credible Marks	# of non-Credible Marks	It's Credible (2 or fewer checkmarks in the non-Credible Marks column)	It might be Credible (checkmarks are somewhat even in both columns)	It's Not Credible (5 or more marks in the non-Credible Marks column)
#1					
#2					
#3					

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