

BEWARE!!!! of “Imposter Science”

Some websites purport to be based on peer-reviewed science. Please be careful. Do NOT immediately believe everything you read on the internet.

Sites that educate people on recognizing pseudo-science and bad science (and yes, there is a difference!):

Pseudoscience: n. A theory, methodology or practice that is considered to be without scientific foundation; an activity resembling science but based on fallacious assumptions.

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/pseudoscience>

“The practitioners of (what scientists refer to as) pseudo-science generally know and even understand established scientific thought; they just reject it (for reasons which may have little to do with science itself).” <http://www.ems.psu.edu/~fraser/BadScience.html>

Bad science: “By way of contrast, purveyors of bad science are generally [people] who just don't know any better.”

<http://www.ems.psu.edu/~fraser/BadScience.html>

National Center for Science Education: A site that defends the teaching of evolution in public schools. They also have background information on the “Intelligent Design” movement.

<http://www.natcensci.org/default.asp>

Bad Science: A website dedicated to correcting the misinformation that teachers and parents teach to their students/children. It contains common misconceptions and their correct explanations. It links to a number of different sites, including “Bad Meteorology” and “Bad Astronomy.”

<http://www.ems.psu.edu/~fraser/BadScience.html>

Bad Astronomy: A website dedicated to correcting common misconceptions about astronomy. The site also contains sections discussing the astronomy found in movies and on t.v.

<http://www.badastronomy.com/intro.html>

Quackwatch: A website dedicated to educating the public on how to avoid being taken in by pseudoscientific claims, quack cures and nonsense. Mainly focused on human health issues, there are some articles on science in general.

<http://www.quackwatch.com/>

Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSI): This is their Creation and Intelligent Design Watch section. It has some very interesting articles and links about the supposed “debate” between Evolution and Intelligent Design.

<http://csicop.org/intelligentdesignwatch/>

Articles

US News & World Report

“Deceptive ‘Greenwashing’ Aims to Trick Ecotourists” (May 2008)

<http://www.usnews.com/articles/science/environment/2008/05/23/deceptive-greenwashing-aims->

to-trick-ecotourists.html?PageNr=2

Humor/satire, sites to be aware of (i.e. the information may seem legitimate, but it perhaps isn't):

CO₂ Science: A site that disseminates reviews of books and scientific papers on carbon dioxide and global warming. There are also lesson plans on this site.

<http://www.co2science.org/scripts/CO2ScienceB2C/Index.jsp>

Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster: A humorous, satirical website. They claim to be a “real,” robust religion “with millions, if not thousands of devout worshippers.”

<http://www.venganza.org/>

The Endangered Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus: A satirical site based on a fictional animal. It's a good example of information that sounds valid, but that really isn't.

<http://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus/>