



Watch the Michael Shermer/RDF video, "The Baloney Detection Kit." (YouTube: v=hJmRbSX8Rqo)

1. The ten questions have been randomized; identify each by its corresponding Baloney Detection Kit number. Then match each question to a corresponding example. Then write the question number after the example. The first one has been done for you.

#	BALONEY DETECTION KIT'S TEN QUESTIONS		EXAMPLES	#
	Does this fit with the way the world works?	•	• Bigfoot believers don't provide the body of a bigfoot specimen.	
	Does the source make similar claims?	•	• New Age people who believe in ghosts, haunted houses, UFOs—they believe in the whole thing.	
	Is the claimant providing positive evidence?	•	• The Nigerian inheritance scheme; Atlanteans building the pyramids.	
	Has anyone tried to disprove the claim?	•	• People who are pro-business feel they must be skeptical of global warming.	
	Are personal beliefs driving the claim?	•	• Cold fusion—energy too cheap to meter; but nobody could replicate it.	
<b>1</b>	How reliable is the source of the claim?	•	• What would the critics say? What might they think of that you haven't thought of?	
	Is the claimant playing by the rules of science?	•	• Someone's New Theory of Physics fails to explain what previous theories successfully explain.	
	Have the claims been verified by somebody else?	•	• The difference between UFO people and SETI people.	
	Does the new theory account for as many phenomena as the old theory?	•	• Global warming skeptics pick and choose data that slants toward their global warming skepticism.	<b>1</b>
	Where does the preponderance of evidence point?	•	• Creationists point out flaws in the Theory of Evolution. Is a claim supported by most evidence?	

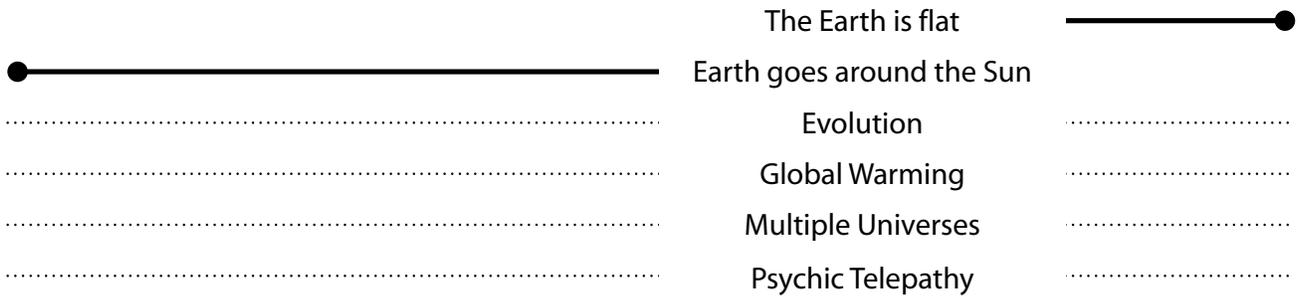
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2. Complete the “certainty spectrum” based on what is said in the presentation. The first two claims have been completed as examples.

PROBABLY  
TRUE

UNCERTAIN

PROBABLY  
NOT TRUE



3. Which of these—if any—is evidence that people “believe” in science in everyday life? Check all that are correct.

- going to doctors
- gambling in Las Vegas
- flying in airplanes
- checking horoscopes