

MARCUS & BYTE

REAL OR AI?

DETECTIVE CHALLENGE



6 MYSTERIES • BIG QUESTIONS • FAMILY FUN

A printable critical-thinking adventure for ages 5–9

Your mission: investigate before you believe!

Brains First. Bytes Second.

marcusandbytestudios.com

Welcome, Detective!

Marcus and Byte need YOUR thinking skills.

THE THREE DETECTIVE QUESTIONS

1. What do I notice in this scene?
2. Could this happen in real life?
3. How could I check whether the image is authentic?

HOW TO PLAY

1. Look at each mystery and read the scene description.
2. Circle YES, NO, or NOT SURE: could it happen in real life?
3. Then decide: can this description prove the image is real?
4. Tell a grown-up what evidence you would look for.

BYTE'S BIG REMINDER

A realistic-looking picture can still be made by AI.

A strange-looking picture might be a costume or clever camera trick!

Detective name: _____

Investigate each scene!

There is no penalty for saying "not sure." Explain your thinking.

CASE 01

The Sunglasses Pup

A dog sits in a parked car wearing sunglasses.

Could this happen in real life?

☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ NOT SURE

What would you check? _____

CASE 02

Moon Pizza Delivery

A penguin delivers a pizza while standing on the moon.

Could this happen in real life?

☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ NOT SURE

What would you check? _____

CASE 03

The Giant Butterfly

A butterfly as big as a school bus rests on its roof.

Could this happen in real life?

☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ NOT SURE

What would you check? _____

Investigate each scene!

There is no penalty for saying "not sure." Explain your thinking.

CASE 04

The Floating Backpack

A school backpack seems to float above a classroom desk.

Could this happen in real life?

☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ NOT SURE

What would you check? _____

CASE 05

The Rainbow Waterfall

A waterfall appears to flow in seven rainbow colors.

Could this happen in real life?

☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ NOT SURE

What would you check? _____

CASE 06

Two Marcus Lookalikes

Two identical-looking children stand side by side.

Could this happen in real life?

☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ NOT SURE

What would you check? _____

Think like a detective!

An image alone cannot tell us who created it.

My best detective discovery:

A source I could ask a grown-up to help check:

MY THREE SUPERPOWERS

- ☐ I noticed details.
- ☐ I asked where it came from.
- ☐ I was willing to change my mind.

OFFICIAL DIGITAL DETECTIVE

Awarded to: _____

Brains First. Bytes Second.

The real mystery: what can we verify?

These are imagined scenarios, not authenticated photographs.

KEY LESSON

Possible does not mean the picture is genuine.

Impossible-looking does not automatically mean AI.

Look for original sources, context, and trustworthy evidence.

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

1. Dog: Possible. A dog can wear sunglasses. Who took the photo?
2. Moon pizza: Not a real-world delivery. Could be art or AI.
3. Giant butterfly: Not realistic at that scale. Could be edited.
4. Floating backpack: Could involve strings, a trick, or editing.
5. Rainbow waterfall: Lighting can alter colors; check the source.
6. Lookalikes: Possible. Twins or costumes can look very similar.

ASK YOUR CHILD

"What else would we need to know before sharing this?"

"Who could help us find the original image?"

"What would make you change your answer?"

Explore more family learning adventures

marcusandbytestudios.com | youtube.com/@MarcusandByte