



# THE FREE ENCYCLOPEDIA

## HOW TO USE WIKIPEDIA

### WORLD WIKIPEDIA DAY – 15 JANUARY

**ON 15 January, 2001, Wikipedia was founded. Just 18 years later, the encyclopedia that anyone can edit is the fifth most popular website in the world and features more than 40 million articles in 301 different languages!**

Back in 2001, two men called Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger set out to create an online encyclopedia. Originally, they planned on checking the accuracy of every article written themselves, but when that took too long, they came up with the idea of Wikipedia. Their big idea was that anyone could contribute their knowledge to it.

Since then, the organisation has grown massively. It's become a non-profit, which means that its aim isn't to make money, and works more like a charity – mostly making its money from donations.

Last month, Wikipedia was visited an incredible 755 million times from the UK alone! Of the 5.7 million English-language articles on the site, 1.5 million were edited and changed.

Since literally anyone can edit a Wikipedia article, there have been lots of debates over how accurate it is. Most of the information on the website will either come from newspapers, websites, books or studies.

While you can always trust the information you read in *First News*, some websites or newspapers can change facts to mislead you. Wikipedia itself warns that you should “always be careful of what you read: it might not be consistently accurate.”

So, on Wikipedia Day, remember that while it's pretty incredible that anyone can access millions of pages of information, that doesn't mean it's all true!



Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales

**NO, this isn't a guide on how to copy and paste! Here's how to use Wikipedia for your homework and make sure the information you take from it is trustworthy.**

- **Use the citations!**  
If you click the numbers by the bits of information you want to use, it'll link through to where that information came from at the bottom of the page. This quickly lets you investigate Wikipedia's sometimes unreliable facts.
- **Double-check everything!**  
Make sure to search Google for articles and studies that back up the information you want to take from a Wikipedia article.
- **Wait, where did THOSE facts come from?**  
Any time you're reading something from a website, you should always ask yourself if it's reliable. Have you heard of it before? How long has it been going? Do people trust it? If you don't know, why not ask a parent or teacher what they think?

# KEY DIARY DATES

## WORLD FUTURE ENERGY SUMMIT 14-17 JANUARY

Abu Dhabi hosts the World Future Energy Summit, where tech leaders from around the world gather to discuss how energy will be produced in the years to come.



## NO TROUSERS ON THE UNDERGROUND DAY 13 JANUARY

For more than 15 years, silly citizens of cities around the world with subways have been taking the tube with their trousers off! The one rule is that you have to keep a straight face for the whole journey!



## MUSEUM SELFIE DAY 16 JANUARY

Museum Selfie Day is an awesome excuse to visit a museum! Take a snap near your favourite exhibit and share just how interesting museums can be! Just be sure to check with the front desk first, as some museums won't allow pictures.