

SEEING THE WHOLE PICTURE

Child-led learning resource



ABOUT

This activity helps you to think about how photographs are used in the news.

You will be able to explore interesting questions like:

- How do photographs help us to experience the news?
- How should newspapers choose their photographs?
- Do photographs give us the whole picture?

You can give this a go on your own, but if there's someone at home who can join you, why not work together? You could also connect with someone by telephone or video.

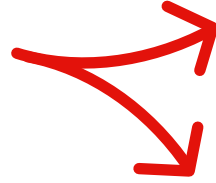
We'll practise some critical-thinking skills which are important for understanding and discussing the news.



Ready? Let's go!

WARM UP

Time to “focus” your thoughts...
Look at these images.



- What news story could they be about?
- What does each one tell you about the news story?
- How do these images make you feel?
- Is there one that creates stronger emotions? Why?
- What type of images are used in newspapers? Why?



THROUGH THE LENS

How do professional photographers feel about photography?

Read these opinions. Can you explain them in your own words?



“Photography is the only language that can be understood anywhere in the world.”

– Bruno Barbey

“The whole point of taking pictures is so that you don’t have to explain them with words.”

– Elliott Erwitt



“Photography helps people to see.”

– Berenice Abbott

Do you agree or disagree with the points that they are trying to make?



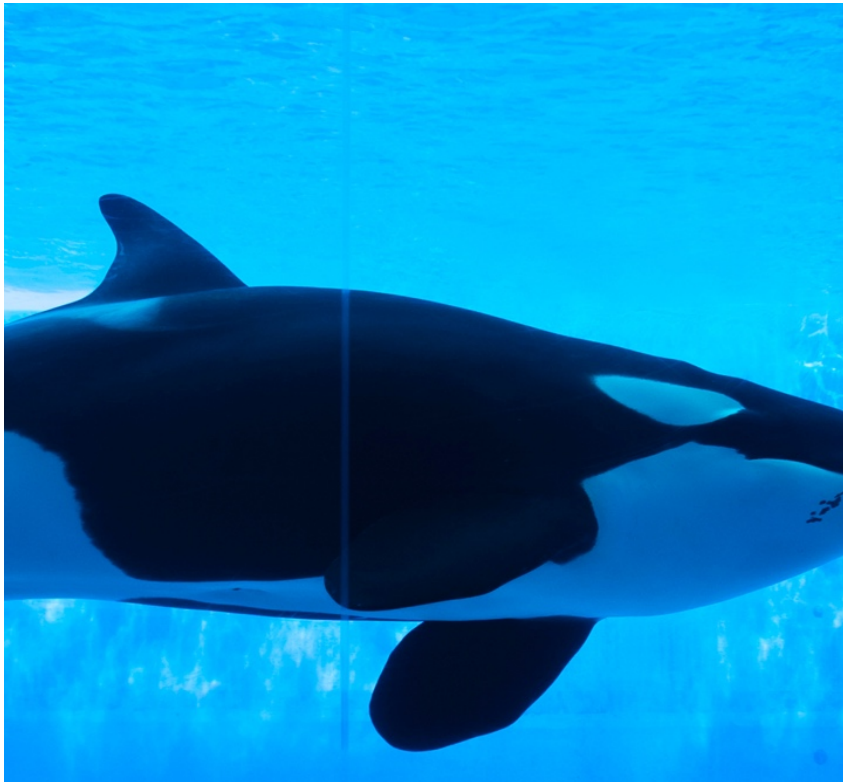
REASONING

Which one do you think is the best description of photography?
Try to think of reasons and examples to explain your decision.

ZOOM IN, ZOOM OUT!

When photographs are published in the news, we only see a snapshot of the action. What we see is chosen by the newspaper.

LOOK AT THE PHOTOGRAPH BELOW.



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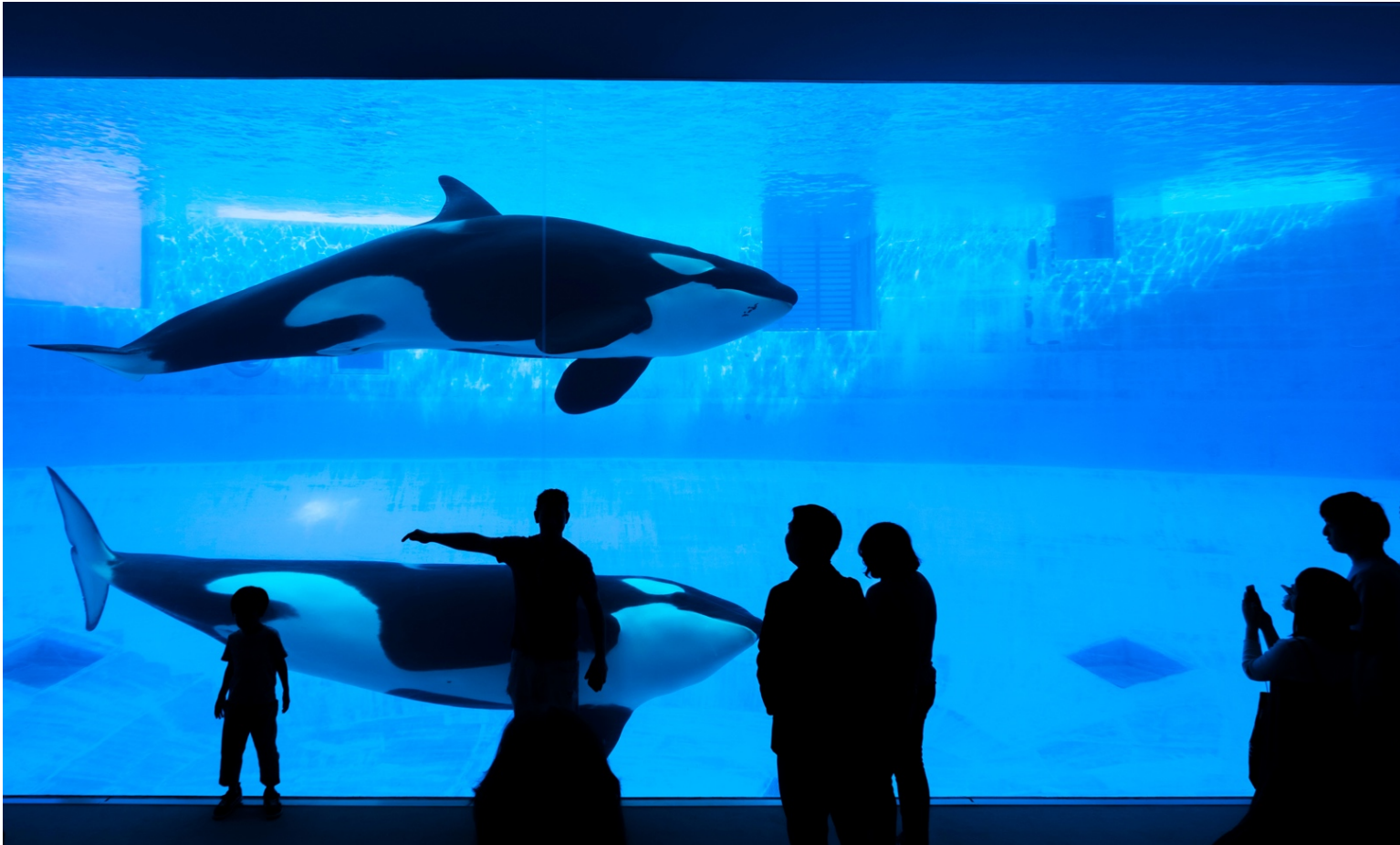
What do you think is happening?

How does the photo make you feel?

ZOOM IN, ZOOM OUT!

NOW LOOK AT THIS PHOTOGRAPH.

What do you notice? Have you changed your opinion?



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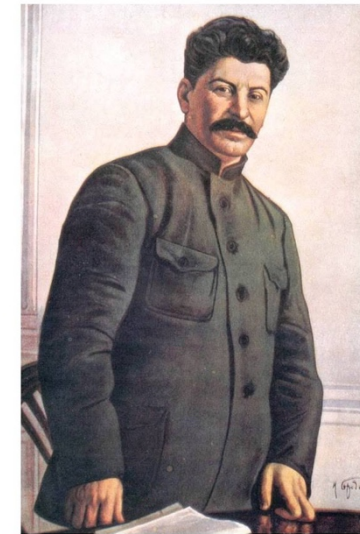
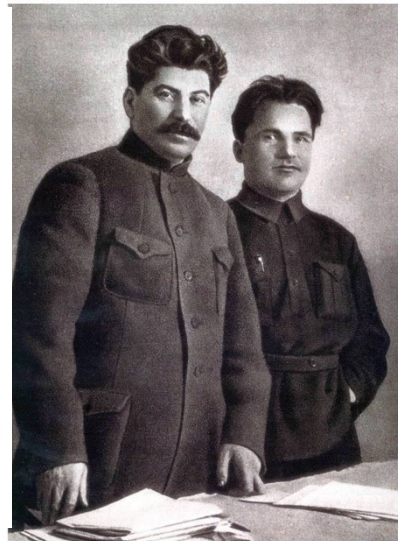
OPEN-MINDEDNESS

Can you think of reasons why photographs might be cropped or zoomed-in-on in the news?

CAN YOU BELIEVE YOUR EYES?

Throughout history, newspapers and political leaders have been accused of using photo censorship to trick people into thinking events happened differently.

LOOK AT THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES



When Stalin led the Soviet Union in the mid-1900s, this photo was edited several times to have his political rivals removed.

Sometimes, newspapers today use photographs which don't tell the whole truth. On the next page, look at the photographs about social distancing (where people have been advised to stay two metres apart).

CAN YOU BELIEVE YOUR EYES?

What story do these photographs tell you?
How do they make you feel?



CAN YOU BELIEVE YOUR EYES?

The photos are of the same scene but from a different angle!

- Why would a newspaper choose to use the first photo? What headline could be attached to this photo?
- Why would a newspaper choose to use the second photo? What headline could be attached to this photo?
- What does this tell us about how newspapers choose the photos they use?



“MAKE” YOUR OWN PHOTO!

What do you think this photographer means?

“You don’t take a photograph, you make it.”

- Ansel Adams

Two photographs of the same event can give the audience a very different impression of what's happening.

Can you take two photos of the same thing, that show it in a different way?

You could try using zoom, different angles or a photo-editing programme.



When you have finished, ask an adult to share your photos with us on Twitter via [@Econ_Foundation](https://twitter.com/Econ_Foundation)

REFLECTION



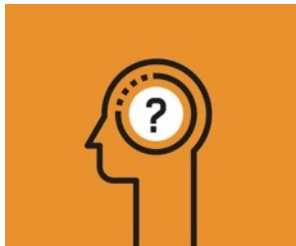
OPEN-MINDEDNESS

Should some things not be photographed?



REASONING

Does the media have a responsibility to give us the whole picture?



SCEPTICISM

How can the reader know when to trust a photograph?





SUPER-REFLECTION

- What role do photographs play during a global crisis, such as the coronavirus pandemic?
- Whose responsibility is it to check that photographs tell the truth? The newspaper or the reader?
- Can you find any photographs in the news that might not give the whole story?

NOW...



Do some research

Find out about photographs that have changed the way that people think



Have a discussion

Talk to someone else about the issues covered in these activities



Become the teacher!

See if you can go through these activities again, as the teacher, with somebody else in your household