LEARNING INDEPENDENTLY?
Check out this week's introduction video
bit.ly/NewsCycle

KEEN TO HAVE YOUR SAY?
Share your opinion on this week's News Cycle
bit.ly/NewsCycleJan12

DEEPFAKES
PART 1: IN THE KNOW
Radu Bercan/Shutterstock
On December 25th, the Queen delivered her traditional televised Christmas message to 6.3 million people. Shortly afterwards, a rather different version aired on Channel 4. It looked and sounded similar to the Queen, but it was actually a “deepfake” made using computer technology.

The digital trickery lasted for five minutes and showed what appeared to be the Queen talking about her family and dancing. In reality, the voice of actress Debra Stephenson had been dubbed over pictures of the Queen, but the latest technology made it look convincingly real.

Channel 4 said the broadcast was intended as a “stark warning” about fake news in the digital age. Deepfakes, which have been around since 2018, are getting easier for people to create themselves and becoming harder to distinguish from reality.

Ian Katz, director of programmes at Channel 4, said that this deepfake should act as “a powerful reminder that we can no longer trust our own eyes”.

However, the deepfake of the Queen has been very controversial, with some people calling it “disrespectful”, “disgusting” and “in poor taste”. So far, the UK’s media regulator Ofcom has received over 200 complaints about the video but it has not yet decided whether to take action against Channel 4.

When approached by reporters, Buckingham Palace had no comment about the broadcast.

Was this deepfake video a fair warning about fake news or a step too far?

WANT TO KNOW MORE? Look here! bbc.co.uk/news/av/technology-51223254
CHALLENGE: how is this issue developing in the news?

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?
- Who is involved? (people, countries, groups etc)
- Where did this happen? Is it still happening?
- How has this been going on for?
- What has happened?

NEWS SCALE
How much of a problem are deepfakes for you? Mark your opinion on the scale below with an X. What about for a celebrity? Where would they put their X? What about for people who only find their news online?

BIG PROBLEM
SMALL PROBLEM

PERSPECTIVE FLIP
What would Person A think about this issue? How are they affected by the issue? Now flip to Person B and think about the same questions. Are any perspectives missing?

A school subject?
A different news story?
NEWS CONCEPT: justice?
Your life?

LINKS
How does this issue link to...?

NEWS CONCEPT:

A The Queen
B A special-effects producer
C ?