

Fact and opinion

Grade 5 Reading Comprehension Worksheet

As you read Marco's letter from Uncle Ben, think about what parts are **fact** and what parts are **opinion**.

If something is *true*, or it *really happened*, it is a **fact**.
If something is *what someone thinks or believes*, it is an **opinion**.

Marco got a letter from his Uncle Ben, the airplane pilot.

Dear Marco,

I have to tell you about my visit to Rome. I don't think there is any place like it in the world. It was the center of the ancient Roman Empire. Today, thousand-year old structures still sit side-by-side with modern buildings. Maybe this is why Rome is known as the "Eternal City." I think that is a good description of the capital of Italy.

The Colosseum is right in the middle of the city. It is an enormous outdoor circular arena built of stone. The ancient Romans held all kind of public events there. It had seats for 50,000 people. It had 80 entrances, so that crowds could get in and out quickly. It is mostly in ruins now.

Many of the young people of Rome get around on colorful motorized scooters. This makes a lot of sense to me, because the traffic in the streets is crazy! Most evenings the young people gather at an ancient structure known as the Spanish Steps. Hundreds of the scooters line the street, as their owners go off to hang out with their friends. The Spanish Steps have been a gathering place for centuries. Today, I'm sure it doesn't hurt that right around the corner there is an American fast-food hamburger drive-through.

There are many ancient fountains in Rome. One of the most famous is the Trevi Fountain. It was probably made even more famous by a popular American movie about it, called "Three Coins in a Fountain." People say that if you make a wish and toss a coin into this fountain, your wish will be granted. Of course I tossed my coin in, even though I don't really believe in magic fountains.

Yours truly,

Uncle Ben



Here are some things Uncle Ben said in his letter. Which ones are **facts** and which are Uncle Ben's **opinions**? Circle the word "fact" or the word "opinion."

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|---------|
| 1. There is no place in the world like Rome. | fact | opinion |
| 2. Rome was the center of the ancient Roman Empire. | fact | opinion |
| 3. The ancient Colosseum still stands in the middle of the city of Rome. | fact | opinion |
| 4. The Colosseum had seats for 50,000 people. | fact | opinion |
| 5. Uncle Ben took a tour of the Colosseum. | fact | opinion |
| 6. Rome is known as the "Eternal City." | fact | opinion |
| 7. "Eternal City" is a good description of Rome. | fact | opinion |
| 8. Many young people in Rome get around on motor-scooters. | fact | opinion |
| 9. Traffic in the streets of Rome is crazy. | fact | opinion |
| 10. The Spanish Steps have been a gathering place for centuries. | fact | opinion |
| 11. It doesn't hurt that around the corner from the Spanish Steps there is an American fast-food hamburger drive-through. | fact | opinion |
| 12. There are many ancient fountains in Rome. | fact | opinion |
| 13. Trevi Fountain was probably made even more popular by an American movie about it. | fact | opinion |
| 14. It is said that if you make a wish and toss a coin into the Trevi Fountain your wish will be granted. | fact | opinion |
| 15. Uncle Ben doesn't really believe in magic fountains. | fact | opinion |
| 16. What is one other fact from Uncle Ben's letter about Rome? | | |

Answers

1. opinion
2. fact
3. fact
4. fact
5. fact
6. fact
7. opinion
8. fact
9. opinion
10. fact
11. opinion
12. fact
13. opinion
14. fact
15. opinion
16. Accept any reasonable response.