

Find the Fakes

The Revolutionary War was fought, in large part, because of laws the British imposed on the 13 colonies. They included taxes on goods such as sugar and tea and prevented colonists from issuing their own paper money. There was even a law requiring an approval stamp from the British government be marked on a deck of playing cards. Strange, often unenforced laws still exist around the world. Guess if the laws listed are real or fake. Then, make up some funny laws of your own.

Ideas for the Presentation

- Go to your local government website, [or find it here](#), and see if there are any unusual laws in your state or county.
- Print the list of [just the laws](#) and ask people to mark which ones they think are real and which are fake before going over [the answers](#). You could award a point for each correct answer.
- Ask the group to come up with a list of 10 new laws for the community. For example, “No caffeinated beverages served during bingo.”



Find the Fakes

Real or Fake?

1. In Oregon, no one may whistle for a lost cat after midnight.
2. In Russia, you can be fined for driving a dirty car.
3. In Maine, it is illegal to wear snowshoes in a grocery store.
4. In the United Kingdom, it is illegal to handle salmon under “suspicious circumstances.”
5. In Venice, tourists may not carry umbrellas on sunny days.
6. In Kentucky, using reptiles in a religious service is illegal.
7. In Kentucky, a person may not bring a mule into a hotel lobby.
8. In Vermont, you cannot pass a law or deed prohibiting the use of clotheslines.
9. In Scotland, it’s illegal to care for a cow while intoxicated.
10. In Wisconsin, restaurants must offer cheese curds before 10 p.m.
11. In Taiwan, you can go to jail for up to three days if you wear a mask or a costume that scares people.

12. In Michigan, barbers may not work on Sundays.
13. In Georgia, it's illegal to live on a boat for more than 90 days.
14. In Alabama, it is illegal to carry an ice cream cone in your back pocket.
15. In Singapore, chewing gum is illegal.
16. In Vermont, it is illegal to yodel near a dairy barn after dark.
17. In Maine, beano (bingo) workers may play a player's cards while that player takes a break.
18. In Massachusetts, every bathtub must stand on lion's feet.
19. In Wisconsin, lutefisk is specifically excluded from the legal definition of a toxic substance.
20. In Hawaii, you may not hum loudly at a crosswalk.
21. In Oregon, hunting in cemeteries is prohibited.
22. In West Virginia, it is unlawful to carry a raccoon into a church.
23. In New York, it's illegal for a woman to be topless while walking on city sidewalks.
24. In Oregon, you can't get a tattoo if you're sunburnt.
25. In Quitman, Georgia, chickens are not allowed to cross the road.
26. In Singapore, citizens must smile when photographed for official licenses.
27. In France, a posthumous marriage may be authorized in certain circumstances.
28. In Arizona, it is illegal to let a donkey sleep in a bathtub.
29. In Maine, hunting wild animals or wild birds on Sunday is prohibited.
30. In France, bicyclists must ring a bell before passing a bakery.
31. In the United States, it's illegal to sell fake drugs.
32. In Amsterdam, it is illegal to wear wooden shoes in bars after midnight.
33. In Wisconsin state institutions, margarine generally may not be served to students, patients, or inmates as a substitute for table butter.
34. In New Mexico, you may not wear a sombrero taller than 12 inches indoors.
35. In Georgia, it's illegal to wear a hooded sweatshirt with the hood pulled up.
36. In Nevada, a person may not nap in a casino chair for more than 20 minutes.
37. In Massachusetts, selling or giving away artificially dyed rabbits, chicks, ducklings, or other fowl is illegal.
38. In Texas, it is illegal to pick bluebonnets.

39. In West Virginia, it is unlawful to shoot at a wild bird or wild animal unless it is plainly visible.
40. In Michigan, it is illegal to name a pig Napoleon.
41. In Oregon, if someone attempts to commit a crime while both wearing body armor and carrying a deadly weapon, they are charged with a Class B felony.
42. In Maine, lobster may not be used as a paperweight in a public building.
43. In Delaware, it's illegal to collect and sell fur from your cat or dog.
44. In Wisconsin, apple pie may not be served without cheddar cheese.
45. In Vermont, selling or displaying dyed baby chicks, ducklings, or other fowl is illegal.
46. In Alabama, a rooster may not crow after sunrise within town limits.
47. In Hawaii, outdoor advertising, as seen on many federally funded highways around the country, is generally prohibited except for limited exceptions.
48. In Florida, it's illegal to fall asleep under a hair dryer.
49. In West Virginia, the state may issue permits for roadside menageries that keep wild animals, birds, amphibians, or reptiles.
50. In Ohio, it is illegal to hunt whales on Sunday.

Answer Sheet

1. Fake
2. Real. The law was passed because dirt can obscure license plate numbers, which must be legible from a distance of 20 meters.
3. Fake
4. Real. The Salmon Act makes it an offense to handle salmon in "suspicious circumstances." Usually, this refers to stealing salmon.
5. Fake
6. Real. This law is occasionally enforced, and the perpetrator is charged with a misdemeanor and must pay a fine.
7. Fake
8. Real. Vermont considers the use of clotheslines a way to save energy; they are protected as renewable energy devices.
9. Real. This law is rarely enforced but was passed as a safety measure.
10. Fake
11. Real. It is suggested that if you are going to wear a disturbing costume or mask to a party or other event, then you should pack it in a bag and put it on when you arrive.

12. Fake. This was a blue law in Michigan until 1996, when the law was repealed.
13. Real. Georgia has laws about living on boats because of the waste that gets thrown into the water.
14. Fake. (This is widely repeated online, but it is not a current law.)
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17. Real. Maine's beano law does not apply to high-stakes beano.
18. Fake
19. Real. Lutefisk is a traditional Scandinavian dish made from whitefish (similar to cod) that is soaked in water and lye and rehydrated into a gelatinous texture.
20. Fake
21. Real. Oregon law prohibits hunting in cemeteries, and a violation of this law is considered a misdemeanor.
22. Fake. While this specific circumstance is a fictional quirky law in West Virginia, it remains illegal to carry any wild animal into a public space.
23. Fake. While it is illegal for any person to be fully naked in public, women have the right to be bare-chested on the streets of New York.
24. Real. This law exists to prevent infection, among other things.
25. Real. The law was passed to keep roadways safe and to prevent property damage.
26. Fake. The opposite is true: Singaporeans must wear a neutral expression for identification photos.
27. Real. The president of France can authorize a posthumous marriage in rare circumstances, such as those relating to the birth of a child.
28. Fake. This often appears on lists of "crazy laws," but it is not real.
29. Real. The law extends to possessing any type of hunting equipment on the water, in fields, or in forests on a Sunday. This law is considered a "blue law," a law that restricts activity on Sundays, which are set aside for religious observance.
30. Fake. While it is not true that bicyclists must ring a bell while passing a bakery, it is a fact that a bicycle must have a properly working bell. If not, a fine will be imposed upon the bicyclist.
31. Real. It's illegal to use false representation to sell a product to a buyer in the United States.
32. Fake
33. Real. Wisconsin restricts the use of margarine in state institutions such as schools, hospitals, and prisons. This is in large part to help the state's dairy industry.
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35. Fake. While there is no broad ban on wearing hooded sweatshirts with the hood pulled up, there is a Georgia law that a person could be charged with a misdemeanor if they conceal their face while trespassing on public or private property.
 36. Fake. Businesses reserve the right to enforce their own “no sleeping” policies, but sleeping in a casino chair is not illegal.
 37. Real. Massachusetts also forbids selling or giving away baby fowl under two months of age.
 38. Fake. This is a common Texas myth or urban legend that is thought to have started with the goal of respecting the Texas state flower.
 39. Real. West Virginia law says hunters may not dig out or smoke out an animal from a place of refuge, use any type of vehicle or drone from which to shoot an animal, or use artificial light or night vision technology. Exception: Light technology is permitted for hunting raccoons, foxes, and coyotes.
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 41. Real. In Oregon, someone wearing body armor while possessing a deadly weapon is charged with two crimes.
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 43. Real. To prevent any exploitation of pets, even hair that is shed by a cat or dog cannot be sold.
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 47. Real. Hawaii prohibits most outdoor advertising, resulting in very few billboards.
 48. Real. Both the customer and salon owner could be fined because falling asleep under a hairdryer is a safety concern.
 49. Real. In West Virginia, you can apply for a permit for a “roadside menagerie” to keep certain wild creatures in captivity.
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