

BBC Urban legends



Urban legend: A modern myth, imaginary information that many people believe to be true.

BEFORE YOU WATCH

1 **SPEAKING** Only one of sentences 1–5 is a fact, the others are urban legends. Which sentence do you think is true? Discuss.

- 1 You can see the Great Wall of China from space with the naked eye.
- 2 People only use 10 percent of their brains.
- 3 An earthquake can change the length of a day.
- 4 Chewing gum stays in your body for seven years.
- 5 Elvis Presley is alive.

2 Choose the correct option.

- 1 You measure an earthquake on the *Richter / Weighing / Global* scale.
- 2 A crowd is a *small / large / young* group of people.
- 3 When you want to test a theory, you *make / carry / do* an experiment.

WHILE YOU WATCH

3 Complete the presenter's introduction to the video with the correct words in the box. There are two extra words.

(all billion entire exactly move stop)

Imagine in five minutes' time, everyone on the

1 _____ planet was going to jump at

2 _____ the same time. From London to

Sydney, Delhi to New York, 6.9 ³ _____ people leap in the air. Could they make the earth

4 _____ ?

4 **6** Watch the first part of the video (up to 0:53) and check your answers. What do you think is the answer to the question in Exercise 3?

5 **6** Look at the photo. What kind of event is it? Why did Greg choose this place to do the experiment? Watch the next part of the video (00:53 – 01:30) and check your ideas.

6 **6** Watch the rest of the video (01:30 – 03:13). Put the events in chronological order.

- a Greg tests Paul Denton's machine.
- b Greg arrives at Reading Festival.
- c Everybody jumps.
- d So the urban legend is completely untrue.
- e The jump measures 0.6 on the Richter Scale.
- f You can see the jump on Paul's machine.
- g Greg tells the crowd about his experiment.
- h But you need 8 on the Richter scale to move the planet.

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AFTER YOU WATCH

7 **SPEAKING** Greg Foot has done a series of videos like this one. Which of the following would you be most interested in? Tick three and then compare your ideas with a partner.

- 1 Why is fire hot?
- 2 Can I escape from quicksand?
- 3 If a coin falls off the top of the Empire State Building and hits someone on the pavement, will it kill them?
- 4 Why does a boomerang come back?
- 5 Can you survive in a falling lift?

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