

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Prd: \_\_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_\_ /10

### Belief, Fact & Opinion

When learning about any subject, especially history or religion, it is important to know the *difference between a fact, belief & opinion.*

A **fact** can be *proved true*. For example, it is a fact that Mars is the 4<sup>th</sup> planet from the sun. A fact can be proved either by actually observing something or by consulting a reliable source such as an encyclopedia.

An **opinion** is a **statement or idea that tells how a person feels about something**. If your friend says, "Pizza is the best food in the world," s/he is stating an opinion. However, opinions supported by facts are more convincing. If you took a survey & discovered that more people ate pizza than any other food, he would have some support for his opinion.

A **belief** is an **idea or conviction that someone accepts as true or real**. Some people, for example, believe that walking under a ladder is bad luck. Can this be proven? Probably not. But the person may still believe it true. Another person may believe in certain gods, while others do not. For them, these beliefs are like facts.

A **belief system** is a **collection of ideas or teachings which influence a person's understanding of life**. It usually gives instructions on how to live. As you will see, religions are a blend of both belief systems & facts. It can be proven that at least some of the religious leaders actually existed. The ideas they taught & some of the things they did, however, cannot be proven.

#### **Assignment: Recognizing Beliefs, Facts & Opinions:**

**Directions:** Read each statement & **decide whether it is a belief (B), a fact (F) or an opinion (O).**

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| ____ 1. Finding a penny means good luck.                    | ____ 6. Seals are the cutest animals.                          |
| ____ 2. The Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776. | ____ 7. Oranges have a great deal of vitamin C.                |
| ____ 3. There are 7 continents on Earth.                    | ____ 8. Rain forests in Brazil are shrinking.                  |
| ____ 4. The mountains are more beautiful than the desert.   | ____ 9. Rabbits make great pets.                               |
| ____ 5. If you are born in April, you will become rich.     | ____ 10. You should stay home on Friday the 13 <sup>th</sup> . |

