Could China use TikTok to gather information about people?

TikTok is a Chinese app that lets users share short, fun video clips. It has been downloaded over 2 billion times and is one of the fastest-growing social platforms in the world.

The app collects a lot of data from its users including which videos someone watches, where someone is and what they copy and paste. Although other apps also collect data, several countries are worried about the amount TikTok gathers. They think the Chinese government will force the app to share information about its users without the users' permission. Some people think that the Chinese government could use this information to keep track of people.

TikTok has been asked about how safe people’s data are because it is illegal to collect data without permission in many countries, including the UK. The company said it would “definitely say no” if the Chinese government asked the firm to share data with it. However, there is also a strict law in China that everyone must co-operate with the government if it asks for something.

In June, India banned the app (along with some other Chinese apps) for national-security reasons and Britain is looking into whether it breaks privacy rules too. Donald Trump is due to ban TikTok from mid-September, unless it is bought by an American company, to stop the Chinese government from seeing information about American users.

At the time of writing, TikTok is set to begin legal action to challenge the ban imposed by President Trump.

Want to know more about this? Look here! bbc.co.uk/newsround/53664131
WHAT’S IT ALL ABOUT?
- Who is involved? (people, countries, groups etc)
- What has happened?
- Where did this happen? Is it still happening?

How long has this been going on for?

WHAT’S IT ALL ABOUT?

NEWS SCALE
Is this a big issue for you? Mark your opinion on the scale below with a X. What about someone in America who earns a lot of money from TikTok. Where would they place their X? What about someone who doesn't have a smartphone?

SMALL ISSUE

BIG ISSUE

NEWS SCALE

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

LINKS
- How does this issue link with...
- A school subject?
- A different news story?
- Your life?

A B C
- Donald Trump
- TikTok owners
- ?

NEWS CONCEPT: democracy

CHALLENGE: how is this issue developing in the news?