Garden Source Detectives

Compare two accounts of the same event.

4.LF.20.d "Explain the differences between primary and secondary sources, giving examples from texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the passage. Underline one detail that shows when Maya made her record, circle one detail that shows how Mr. Lee learned about the event, and number the two sources 1 and 2 in the order they were made.

After the Wind

1. On May 6, the fourth graders at Pine School found their bean plants bent after a windy night. Maya, who helped in the garden, wrote in her notebook that afternoon: "The tallest bean stalk snapped. I tied the other plants to sticks with string." She also sketched where each plant stood. Her entry records what she saw and did on the day it happened.

2. Two weeks later, the school newsletter printed a story about the garden. Its writer, Mr. Lee, had not been there on May 6. He read Maya's notebook and asked two other students what they remembered. His story described how the class repaired the garden after the wind. It mentioned the broken stalk and explained that the students used sticks to support the plants.

3. Maya's notebook gives one student's view from that day. Mr. Lee's story brings together details from several people, but he learned them afterward. A record made by someone who took part is called a primary source. A later account that uses earlier records to explain an event is called a secondary source. When readers compare both, they can notice whose voice tells each part of the story.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Is Maya's notebook a primary or secondary source? Use a detail from the passage to explain.

2. Is Mr. Lee's newsletter story a primary or secondary source? Use a detail from the passage to explain.

3. How does the time each source was made help explain the difference between them?

4. Which source would you use to find Maya's exact words about the damaged plants? Explain why it is better for that purpose.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your class holds a book swap. Name one primary source and one secondary source someone could make about it. In three or four sentences, explain who makes each source and why it fits its type.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Source Detectives

GRADE 4 · 4.LF.20.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read the passage. Underline one detail that shows when Maya made her record, circle one detail that shows how Mr. Lee learned about the event, and number the two sources 1 and 2 in the order they were made. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Is Maya's notebook a primary or secondary source? Use a detail from the passage to explain.	**It is a primary source. Maya helped in the garden and wrote the entry that afternoon about what she saw and did.**
2	Is Mr. Lee's newsletter story a primary or secondary source? Use a detail from the passage to explain.	**It is a secondary source. Mr. Lee was not there and wrote it two weeks later using Maya's notebook and other students' memories.**
3	How does the time each source was made help explain the difference between them?	**Maya made her record on the day of the event, while Mr. Lee wrote his account two weeks later.**
4	Which source would you use to find Maya's exact words about the damaged plants? Explain why it is better for that purpose.	**Use Maya's notebook because it contains her own words. Mr. Lee's later story retells what happened.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the book swap, a student could keep a list of every book traded. That list is a primary source because it was made during the swap. A student who missed the swap could later write a report using the list, and that report would be a secondary source because it explains the event using an earlier record.

Accept different source examples for the book swap if the primary source comes from the event and the secondary source is a later account based on earlier evidence. For passage questions, look for explanations grounded in who made each source and when.