

Flight Source Detectives

Compare firsthand evidence with a later historical study.

SS.3.A.1.1 "Analyze primary and secondary sources."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline clues that tell who made each source and when it was made. Circle words that show whether the source maker took part in, saw, or studied the event.

Sources From a First Flight

- ① In December 1903, Orville and Wilbur Wright tested a flying machine near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. On December 17, Orville flew it for 12 seconds. Later that day, he wrote an account for a family member. He told what he did, saw, and measured. A source made during or soon after an event by someone who took part in it or saw it is called a primary source.
- ② That evening, Orville sent a telegram to his father in Dayton, Ohio. It reported that the machine had flown successfully. A telegram sent by a person who took part in an event can give firsthand evidence, even though it is written after the event. Readers should notice who made a source, when it was made, and how its maker knew the information.
- ③ In 2003, historian Tom D. Crouch published *The Bishop's Boys*, a book about the Wright brothers. The book uses earlier records to explain why the flights mattered and to compare the brothers' work with other inventors' work. Crouch was not at Kitty Hawk in 1903. A source made later by someone who did not take part in or witness an event, but studies earlier evidence, is called a secondary source. Readers can check evidence an author used.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which source is a primary source, Orville's account or Crouch's book? Use two details from the passage to explain.

2 Which source is a secondary source, Orville's telegram or Crouch's book? Use two details from the passage to explain.

3 How can Orville's telegram give firsthand evidence even though he wrote it after the flight?

4 What could a reader check to learn more about how Crouch made his book? Why would checking it help?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Think of a class field day. In the table, create two different sources about it. Make one a primary source from a participant or witness made that day or soon after, and make one a secondary source made later using earlier evidence.

SOURCE ABOUT FIELD DAY	TYPE	WHY IT FITS

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline clues that tell who made each source and when it was made. Circle words that show whether the source maker took part in, saw, or studied the event. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which source is a primary source, Orville's account or Crouch's book? Use two details from the passage to explain.	Orville's account is a primary source. He took part in the flight and wrote the account later that day.
2	Which source is a secondary source, Orville's telegram or Crouch's book? Use two details from the passage to explain.	Crouch's book is a secondary source. It was published in 2003, and Crouch was not at Kitty Hawk in 1903.
3	How can Orville's telegram give firsthand evidence even though he wrote it after the flight?	Orville took part in the flight and sent the telegram that evening. A participant can give firsthand evidence soon after an event.
4	What could a reader check to learn more about how Crouch made his book? Why would checking it help?	The reader could check the earlier evidence or records Crouch used. This would show what information supported the book.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

SOURCE ABOUT FIELD DAY	TYPE	WHY IT FITS
A runner's note written after the race	Primary source	The runner took part and wrote it soon after.
An article written next year using students' notes	Secondary source	The writer used earlier evidence and was not at field day.

Accept answers that identify a primary source as one made during or soon after the event by a participant or firsthand witness. Accept a secondary source when it is made later by someone studying earlier evidence.