

Flight Evidence Files

Compare records to investigate a past event.

SS.3.A.1 "Historical Inquiry and Analysis"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that tell who made each record or when it was made. Circle the record made long after the event, so you can decide which sources give firsthand evidence.

Looking Into a First Flight

- ① In 1903, Orville and Wilbur Wright tested a flying machine near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. A historian asks, "What happened during the first successful flight?" To investigate, she gathers records from different times. One record is a photograph taken on December 17, 1903. John T. Daniels, who watched the flight, pressed the camera button as the Flyer left the ground.
- ② That day, Orville sent his father a telegram about the tests. It reported four flights and said the longest one lasted 57 seconds. A museum article written in 2003 tells readers about the Wright brothers. The writer used old photographs, letters, and reports to make the article. The writer was not at Kitty Hawk in 1903.
- ③ The historian compares each record. The photograph and telegram came from people connected to the flight or its tests. The museum article was written 100 years later. It can explain the event, but its facts should be checked with older records. By comparing sources, the historian can build a stronger answer about the flight and its history.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which record was made by a person who watched the first flight? Name the record and the person.

2 What evidence shows that Orville's telegram was made close to the event?

3 Which source was written long after 1903, and what older records did its writer use?

4 Why should the historian check facts in the museum article with older records?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Think of a school event from this year. Write exactly three sentences: state a question about the event, describe one firsthand record and one record made later, then tell how comparing them could help.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words that tell who made each record or when it was made. Circle the record made long after the event, so you can decide which sources give firsthand evidence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which record was made by a person who watched the first flight? Name the record and the person.	The photograph was made by John T. Daniels, who watched the flight.
2	What evidence shows that Orville's telegram was made close to the event?	The passage says Orville sent the telegram "that day."
3	Which source was written long after 1903, and what older records did its writer use?	The museum article was written in 2003. Its writer used old photographs, letters, and reports.
4	Why should the historian check facts in the museum article with older records?	The article was written 100 years later by a writer who was not at Kitty Hawk in 1903.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My question is, "What happened at our school's field day?" A student's photograph from field day is a firsthand record, and a school history report written years later is a later record. I would compare the photograph with the report to check whether both show the same events.

Accept another reasonable question about a school event and two clearly described records. The response should identify a firsthand record, a later record, and a sensible reason to compare them.