

Tea Party Evidence

Compare records from the past with later historical explanations.

SS.5.A.1.1 "Use primary and secondary sources to understand history."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that begins "Because this newspaper," and circle the sentence that begins "This book is a secondary source." In the last paragraph, number the three questions historians ask about sources 1, 2, and 3.

Two Ways to Study a Protest

- ① In December 1773, a newspaper in Boston printed a report about a protest now called the Boston Tea Party. The report said that people had thrown tea from ships into the harbor. Because this newspaper was an original record created at the time of the event, historians use it as a primary source. Its writer may have collected information from others, so it was not necessarily a firsthand account.
- ② A historian's book published in 2019 explains why colonists opposed the tea tax and how the protest affected relations with Britain. The historian studied old letters, newspaper reports, and shipping records before writing. This book is a secondary source because it was created long after 1773 and interprets information from earlier sources. It can give readers useful context that one newspaper report might not include.
- ③ Historians do not simply choose one source and believe every detail. They ask who created each source, when it was made, and why it was made. They might compare the newspaper's report with letters or records from the ships. Using primary and secondary sources together helps historians build an explanation that is supported by evidence and notice where more evidence is needed.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 Why is the Boston newspaper report a primary source, even though its writer may not have seen the protest?

- 2 What makes the historian's 2019 book a secondary source?

- 3 Name two kinds of earlier sources the historian studied before writing the book.

- 4 What are the three questions historians ask about a source before using it?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Imagine you are studying the Boston Tea Party. In three sentences, name one primary source and one secondary source you could use, tell what each could help you learn, and write one question you would ask to judge a source.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that begins “Because this newspaper,” and circle the sentence that begins “This book is a secondary source.” In the last paragraph, number the three questions historians ask about sources 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why is the Boston newspaper report a primary source, even though its writer may not have seen the protest?	It is an original record created at the time of the event. A primary source does not have to be a firsthand account.
2	What makes the historian's 2019 book a secondary source?	It was created long after 1773 and interprets information from earlier sources.
3	Name two kinds of earlier sources the historian studied before writing the book.	Any two: old letters, newspaper reports, and shipping records.
4	What are the three questions historians ask about a source before using it?	Who created it, when it was made, and why it was made.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A letter written by a ship worker in December 1773 would be a primary source and could describe what that person saw or heard. A modern history book would be a secondary source and could explain the tea tax and the protest's effects. I would ask, “Who created this source, and why?”

Accept accurate paraphrases of the passage. For Question 1, students must explain that the newspaper is an original record from the time, while recognizing that its writer was not necessarily an eyewitness.