

Anniversary in the News

Analyze how current media sources connect a national anniversary to American history.

SS.8.A.1.3 "Analyze current events relevant to American History topics through a variety of electronic and print media resources."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each source or source type, underline a detail that tells what it can provide, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside details that reveal a source's purpose, perspective, or limit.

A Nation Marks 250 Years

- ① In 2026, communities across the United States are marking the nation's 250th anniversary. The anniversary recalls July 4, 1776, when the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence. The official America250 website announces events and posts plans from organizers. Those announcements are primary sources for studying how organizers present the anniversary today. They are not primary sources for proving every detail about 1776. To investigate the Revolution itself, a reader would need evidence created during that earlier time.
- ② Print newspapers and electronic news sites also cover anniversary events. A reporter's firsthand account of a 2026 ceremony or interviews with residents can provide primary evidence about today's celebration. The same story's interpretation of 1776 may be secondary. Classification depends on the research question and the evidence used, not simply the format or the journalist's selection of details. Some writers may emphasize independence and civic ideals; others may ask how celebrations address slavery, Native American history, or voting rights. Readers should notice whose viewpoints appear and whose are missing.
- ③ Comparing sources can lead to a more careful conclusion about this current event. An organizer's online announcement can show the event's purpose, date, and planned activities. A printed news article can add community reactions or historical questions. Independent agreement on a fact, such as a date, strengthens confidence; copying one announcement is not independent confirmation. If they differ in emphasis, the difference may reflect each source's purpose and audience. A strong analysis identifies evidence, perspective, and limits instead of treating one source as the whole story.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What current event does the passage describe, and what American history topic does it connect to?

2 Why is an announcement on the America250 website useful, but not enough by itself to prove every detail about 1776?

3 Give one difference between a newspaper story and an organizer's announcement. When could the story be primary evidence?

4 How could different viewpoints change a reader's understanding of the 250th anniversary? Use one issue named in the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a current event connected to an American history topic. In 80 to 100 words, name or describe one electronic source and one print source, explain one agreement or difference between them, and make a careful conclusion about the event's historical connection.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each source or source type, underline a detail that tells what it can provide, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside details that reveal a source's purpose, perspective, or limit. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What current event does the passage describe, and what American history topic does it connect to?	It describes the United States marking its 250th anniversary in 2026. It connects to the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution in 1776.
2	Why is an announcement on the America250 website useful, but not enough by itself to prove every detail about 1776?	It is useful primary evidence of how organizers present and plan the anniversary today. It was not created in 1776, so it cannot by itself prove every detail about the Revolution.
3	Give one difference between a newspaper story and an organizer's announcement. When could the story be primary evidence?	An announcement gives plans and purpose; a story may add residents' reactions or historical questions. Firsthand reporting of a 2026 ceremony can be primary evidence about that celebration; interpretation of 1776 may be secondary.
4	How could different viewpoints change a reader's understanding of the 250th anniversary? Use one issue named in the passage.	Some sources may emphasize independence and civic ideals, while others may focus on slavery, Native American history, or voting rights. A reader should notice which viewpoints appear and which are missing.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The America250 website is an electronic source about the nation's 250th anniversary. A print newspaper story about a local anniversary ceremony is a second source. Both can identify when and where the ceremony takes place. The website explains the organizers' plans, while the newspaper can include residents' reactions and questions about the past. These sources connect a current celebration to the Declaration of Independence in 1776. They cannot explain every viewpoint about the Revolution, so I would seek accounts from different groups and another historical source.

Accept source classifications tied to the research question and evidence, not print versus electronic format. Firsthand 2026 coverage can be primary; interpretation of 1776 may be secondary. For Part 3, require both source types, a supported comparison and a careful historical conclusion. Shared claims are stronger when independently confirmed.