

Source Clue Hunt

Analyze who made a historical source, who it addressed, and why it was created.

SS.8.A.1.5 "Identify, within both primary and secondary sources, the author, audience, format, and purpose of significant historical documents."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that name each source's author, circle clues about its audience and format, and number 1 or 2 beside phrases that show each author's purpose.

Two Views of the Tea Party

- ① On December 16, 1773, colonists in Boston destroyed tea owned by the British East India Company. To learn why, historians compare sources made at different times. One source is an entry Boston merchant John Rowe recorded in his diary during December 1773. Rowe described a large meeting and men who went toward the ships. His diary was a private record of what he learned that day, not a message prepared for the public. It offers a view written near the event, but Rowe did not tell every detail about the people involved or their reasons.
- ② More than two centuries later, historian Alfred F. Young wrote *The Shoemaker and the Tea Party: Memory and the American Revolution*. This 1999 nonfiction book follows George Robert Twelves Hewes, a poor Boston shoemaker who later described his role in the protest. Young wrote for people seeking to understand how ordinary colonists experienced the Revolution. He examined memoirs, letters, newspapers, and other records. Rather than claim to have seen the protest, Young used earlier evidence to build an interpretation of it.
- ③ Rowe's diary and Young's book differ in author, audience, format, and purpose. Rowe made a personal dated entry as events unfolded. Young created a researched book for later readers. Neither source is automatically complete or neutral. A diary may preserve immediate observations while leaving out context. A historian's book can connect many records, yet its explanation reflects the questions and choices of its author. Looking for these features helps readers decide what each source can reveal.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Who created the first source, and what audience did the source have?

2 What is the format of Rowe's source? Based on when it was made, classify it as primary or secondary.

3 Who wrote Young's source? Identify its format and intended audience.

4 What was Young's purpose for writing, and what evidence did he use to meet that purpose?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose one American history source you have studied that is not in this passage. In four or five sentences, name the source and identify its author, audience, format, purpose, and one clue that supports your analysis.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words that name each source's author, circle clues about its audience and format, and number 1 or 2 beside phrases that show each author's purpose. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who created the first source, and what audience did the source have?	Boston merchant John Rowe created it. Its audience was Rowe himself because it was a private diary record, not a public message.
2	What is the format of Rowe's source? Based on when it was made, classify it as primary or secondary.	It is a diary entry. It is a primary source because Rowe recorded it during December 1773, near the event.
3	Who wrote Young's source? Identify its format and intended audience.	Historian Alfred F. Young wrote it. Its format is a 1999 nonfiction book, and it was intended for people seeking to understand how ordinary colonists experienced the Revolution.
4	What was Young's purpose for writing, and what evidence did he use to meet that purpose?	Young's purpose was to explain how ordinary colonists experienced the Revolution and to interpret the protest. He used memoirs, letters, newspapers, and other records.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

One source is the Declaration of Independence, adopted in 1776. Thomas Jefferson drafted it, and the Continental Congress revised and adopted it. Its audience included King George III, Parliament, colonists, and foreign nations. This formal declaration announced independence and listed reasons to justify that decision. Its complaints about British rule show its purpose.

Accept accurate analyses that identify all four features and support the purpose or audience with a relevant source detail. For the open response, accept another valid American history source if the student's evidence reasonably supports the analysis.