Beyond the Label

What holds a group together?

S.6.2 "Distinguish between primary groups and secondary groups with examples of each."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PRIMARY GROUP

People in a primary group have close, personal bonds. They value their relationships for their own sake.

Three cousins share their feelings and enjoy spending time together.

SECONDARY GROUP

People in a secondary group come together mainly to complete a task or reach a goal. They interact mostly through their roles.

A city budget panel reviews spending proposals.

1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered situation, circle PRIMARY or SECONDARY based on the relationships described.

1.	1. Two siblings rely on each other for comfort and share personal worries.	PRIMARY SECONDARY
2.	2. Employees on a warehouse safety committee follow assigned roles to update procedures.	PRIMARY SECONDARY
3.	3. Students on a science fair judging team score projects using a rubric.	PRIMARY SECONDARY
4.	4. Four longtime friends turn to one another for advice during hard times.	PRIMARY SECONDARY
5.	5. A grandparent and grandchild build a loving, trusting bond over many years.	PRIMARY SECONDARY
6.	6. Two neighbors become close companions and support each other through illness.	PRIMARY SECONDARY
7.	7. Temporary election staff process ballots according to assigned duties.	PRIMARY SECONDARY
8.	8. A foster parent and child form a deep bond and care for each other beyond household tasks.	PRIMARY SECONDARY

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Part 2, PROVE IT: Pick two sort items, one from each category, and explain how the rule helped you choose. Part 3, MAKE YOUR OWN: Write one new example of a primary group and one new example of a secondary group.

PRIMARY _____

SECONDARY _____

CHALLENGE

A debate club meets to prepare for tournaments, but two members also become close friends and share personal worries. Classify the club and the friendship, and explain why they differ.

ANSWER KEY # Beyond the Label

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. Two siblings rely on each other for comfort and share personal worries.	**PRIMARY**	Their close, caring relationship is central.
2	2. Employees on a warehouse safety committee follow assigned roles to update procedures.	**SECONDARY**	They work in assigned roles toward a shared task.
3	3. Students on a science fair judging team score projects using a rubric.	**SECONDARY**	Their group has a specific task and assigned role.
4	4. Four longtime friends turn to one another for advice during hard times.	**PRIMARY**	They have lasting, supportive personal bonds.
5	5. A grandparent and grandchild build a loving, trusting bond over many years.	**PRIMARY**	Their close relationship matters for its own sake.
6	6. Two neighbors become close companions and support each other through illness.	**PRIMARY**	Their relationship is personal and caring, not based on a task.
7	7. Temporary election staff process ballots according to assigned duties.	**SECONDARY**	They work together in defined roles to complete a task.
8	8. A foster parent and child form a deep bond and care for each other beyond household tasks.	**PRIMARY**	Their close, caring bond goes beyond practical duties.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **PRIMARY**: Two pen pals share private hopes and comfort each other over many years.
- **SECONDARY**: A hiring board interviews applicants using a set list of questions.

Challenge: The debate club is a secondary group because its members work toward tournament goals. The two friends form a primary group because they share a close, personal bond.

For Part 2, item 1 is primary because the siblings share comfort and personal worries. Item 2 is secondary because the employees use assigned roles to complete a task.