Crosswalk Clues

Use two sources to trace a town decision.

3.P.2 "Use interdisciplinary tools to acquire, apply, and evaluate content understanding of the four strands of social studies. Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of government, the benefits of democratic systems..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In paragraphs 2 and 3, underline each source's author and date, then write P beside the firsthand source and S beside the later report.

A Safer Way to Cross

1 How can you learn what happened in a town long ago? A primary source comes from someone who saw an event or was there when it happened. A secondary source tells about an event later, often using other sources. An old ferry ticket can show what a rider paid. A book written years later might explain how people traveled.

2 On May 6, 2024, crossing guard Ana Vega wrote a letter to the town council. "Cars turn quickly at Pine Street. Yesterday, I watched two children wait while five cars turned before they could cross. Please add a marked crosswalk near the library," she wrote. Vega wanted the council to help children cross safely. She gave the council a fact she had seen herself.

3 On May 20, 2024, reporter Leo Kim wrote a town news story. Kim did not see the children waiting. He read Vega's letter and the council's meeting notes. His story said the council voted on May 13 to paint a crosswalk at Pine Street. Workers painted it on May 17. Kim's story helps readers see what happened after Vega sent her letter.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which source is primary? What detail shows its writer saw the problem?

2. Which source is secondary? What two records did its writer use?

3. Who wrote the secondary source, and when did he write it?

4. Why can't Vega's letter tell you whether the crosswalk was painted on May 17? Which source can?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your class asks for a new place to store books. Write a two-sentence firsthand note dated the day you make the request and a two-sentence later summary dated after the decision. Name a writer for each source, and tell what the class decided in the summary.

Crosswalk Clues

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In paragraphs 2 and 3, underline each source's author and date, then write P beside the firsthand source and S beside the later report. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which source is primary? What detail shows its writer saw the problem?	**Ana Vega's letter is primary. She wrote that she watched two children wait while five cars turned.**
2	Which source is secondary? What two records did its writer use?	**Leo Kim's news story is secondary. He used Vega's letter and the council's meeting notes.**
3	Who wrote the secondary source, and when did he write it?	**Leo Kim wrote it on May 20, 2024.**
4	Why can't Vega's letter tell you whether the crosswalk was painted on May 17? Which source can?	**Vega wrote her letter before May 17. Kim's later news story says workers painted the crosswalk that day.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Firsthand note, by Maya, September 4: I asked our class to add a book basket near the door. I saw three books fall from a crowded shelf.
Later summary, by Omar, September 11: The class voted to put a basket near the door. Maya's note said the shelf was crowded.

Accept answers that identify Vega's letter as firsthand and Kim's story as a later account based on records. For the open task, check for two dated, named sources with two sentences each and a decision in the later summary.