Eclipse Evidence

Read three accounts of one event and compare what each writer knows.

4.P.2.2.A "Compare and analyze primary and secondary sources from the past and present, including the intended audience and author's purpose."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a clue in each paragraph that shows what the writer saw or did not see. Circle the words that show who each text was meant for.

Three Ways to Tell an Eclipse Story

1. These three sample texts are invented, but the April 8, 2024, eclipse was real. In a diary dated that evening, Maya wrote: "At my home in Cleveland, Ohio, the sky grew dark during the eclipse. I heard people cheer. I want to remember how strange the afternoon felt." Maya wrote the entry after watching the event herself. She kept the diary for herself, not for a crowd.

2. In 2026, a museum guide reads: "On April 8, 2024, the Moon passed between Earth and the Sun. People in some places, including Cleveland, saw a total solar eclipse. The Moon blocked the Sun for a short time." The guide's writer studied records about the eclipse instead of watching it in Cleveland. The museum made the guide to explain the event to visitors.

3. Also in 2026, Leo sends his cousin a message after visiting the museum: "I read the guide and Maya's diary beside the eclipse display today. The guide explained what caused the darkness, but Maya's diary helped me imagine the cheers." Leo saw the display himself, but he did not see the 2024 eclipse. He wants his cousin to know what his museum visit was like.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Is Maya's diary a primary or secondary source for the eclipse? Give a clue and name its intended reader.

2. Is the museum guide a primary or secondary source for the eclipse? What is its purpose?

3. Is Leo's message a primary source for his museum visit, the 2024 eclipse, or both? Explain using the passage.

4. How do the purposes of Maya's diary and the museum guide differ?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a different event, such as a school concert. Invent two short sources about it: one by a witness and one by someone who studies accounts later. For each source, state whether it is primary or secondary, who would read it, and why the writer made it.

ANSWER KEY

Eclipse Evidence

GRADE 4 · 4.P.2.2.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a clue in each paragraph that shows what the writer saw or did not see. Circle the words that show who each text was meant for. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Is Maya's diary a primary or secondary source for the eclipse? Give a clue and name its intended reader.	**It is a primary source because Maya watched the eclipse herself. She wrote the diary for herself.**
2	Is the museum guide a primary or secondary source for the eclipse? What is its purpose?	**It is a secondary source because the writer studied records about the eclipse. Its purpose is to explain the event to museum visitors.**
3	Is Leo's message a primary source for his museum visit, the 2024 eclipse, or both? Explain using the passage.	**It is a primary source for his museum visit because he was there. It is not a primary source for the eclipse because he did not see it.**
4	How do the purposes of Maya's diary and the museum guide differ?	**Maya wrote to remember what the eclipse felt like. The museum guide was written to explain the eclipse to visitors.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I watched our school concert and wrote a journal entry about the loud drumbeat. My entry is a primary source for the concert, written for myself so I could remember it. A student who missed the concert later read several journal entries and wrote an article for the school paper. The article is a secondary source for the concert, written to tell other students what happened.

Accept other text-based clues that correctly identify each writer's experience, audience, and purpose. In Part 3, the two sources must be about the same event, with one written by a witness and the other based on later research.