Trace the Evidence

Can a reader find the source behind a historical fact?

WG.P.4 "Develop a variety of evidence-based written products designed for multiple purposes. Summarize and paraphrase, integrate evidence, and cite sources to create written products, research projects..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CITED EVIDENCE

A cited sentence gives a fact from a source and includes a citation that helps the reader find it. The citation may name a document and its date or section.

The United Nations Charter calls for nations to cooperate on human rights (United Nations Charter, 1945).

UNCITED EVIDENCE

An uncited sentence gives a fact that needs source credit but does not include a citation. A fact can be accurate and still be uncited.

Magna Carta placed limits on certain fines.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle CITED or UNCITED for each sentence; for Part 2, choose one item from each category and explain how you knew where it belonged.

1.	The U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power to declare war (U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8).	CITED UNCITED
2.	The Declaration of Independence says governments get their powers from "the consent of the governed" (Declaration of Independence, 1776).	CITED UNCITED
3.	The Thirteenth Amendment banned slavery except as punishment for a crime.	CITED UNCITED
4.	The Nineteenth Amendment prohibits denying a citizen the vote because of sex (U.S. Constitution, Amendment XIX, 1920).	CITED UNCITED
5.	The United States had 331,449,281 residents in 2020.	CITED UNCITED
6.	A peace treaty signed in 1919 assigned Germany and its allies responsibility for wartime losses.	CITED UNCITED
7.	The Emancipation Proclamation declared enslaved people in rebel-held areas free (Emancipation Proclamation, 1863).	CITED UNCITED
8.	The 1964 Civil Rights Act barred discrimination in public accommodations based on race.	CITED UNCITED

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

For Part 3, write two sentences about the same historical fact: one with a citation to a real source and one without a citation.

CITED _____

UNCITED _____

CHALLENGE

Choose an uncited item from Part 1 and rewrite it with a citation to a matching primary source.

Trace the Evidence

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power to declare war (U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8).	**CITED**	The citation identifies the document and section supporting the fact.
2	The Declaration of Independence says governments get their powers from "the consent of the governed" (Declaration of Independence, 1776).	**CITED**	The quotation has a citation naming its document and date.
3	The Thirteenth Amendment banned slavery except as punishment for a crime.	**UNCITED**	The sentence states a historical fact but has no citation.
4	The Nineteenth Amendment prohibits denying a citizen the vote because of sex (U.S. Constitution, Amendment XIX, 1920).	**CITED**	The citation identifies the amendment and year.
5	The United States had 331,449,281 residents in 2020.	**UNCITED**	The population figure is given without a citation.
6	A peace treaty signed in 1919 assigned Germany and its allies responsibility for wartime losses.	**UNCITED**	The treaty's finding is summarized without a citation.
7	The Emancipation Proclamation declared enslaved people in rebel-held areas free (Emancipation Proclamation, 1863).	**CITED**	The citation identifies the document and year.
8	The 1964 Civil Rights Act barred discrimination in public accommodations based on race.	**UNCITED**	The sentence gives a fact about the law but has no citation.

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)

- **CITED**: The Twenty-Sixth Amendment bars states from denying the vote to citizens age 18 or older because of age (U.S. Constitution, Amendment XXVI, 1971).
- **UNCITED**: The Twenty-Sixth Amendment bars states from denying the vote to citizens age 18 or older because of age.

Challenge: The Thirteenth Amendment banned slavery except as punishment for a crime (U.S. Constitution, Amendment XIII, 1865).

For Part 2, an explanation of item 1 can point to its document and section citation; an explanation of item 3 can note that it has no citation. A correct historical fact still needs source credit when used as evidence.