

Source Time Detectives

Use dates and creators to classify sources.

3.13.D "identify primary and secondary sources;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the source made by a person who saw the bridge opening, and circle the source made later by a writer who studied older information. Number the clues that tell when each source was made.

The Riverton Bridge

- ① In 1936, the town of Riverton opened a new stone bridge across Pine Creek. Mr. Luis Chen stood near the ribbon cutting and watched the first cars cross. That afternoon, he wrote a notebook entry about the band, the mayor's speech, and the muddy shoes of the crowd. He wrote that page on the day of the opening. A source made at the time by someone who saw it is a primary source.
- ② Eighty years later, Ms. Ana Patel used Mr. Chen's notebook, old newspapers, and town records to write a book about the bridge. She did not see the opening herself. Her book explains why the bridge was built and tells what happened that day. A secondary source uses or explains information from other sources to describe the past.
- ③ Today, the Riverton Museum shows a copy of Mr. Chen's notebook beside Ms. Patel's book. A museum label says the notebook gives a first-person view of the opening. Another label says the book puts details from several older sources together. People can use both kinds of sources to learn about the bridge, but they should notice who made each one and when.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 Which source in the passage is a primary source? Use one detail about who made it or when it was made.

- 2 Which source is a secondary source? What sources did its writer use?

- 3 A student wants a first-person view of the bridge opening. Which source should the student use?

- 4 How can you tell that Ms. Patel's book is not a primary source about the bridge opening?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Think of a school event you attended. In two sentences, name one primary source made at the event and one secondary source made later. Tell why each source fits.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the source made by a person who saw the bridge opening, and circle the source made later by a writer who studied older information. Number the clues that tell when each source was made. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which source in the passage is a primary source? Use one detail about who made it or when it was made.	Mr. Chen's notebook entry is a primary source. He watched the opening and wrote the entry that same day.
2	Which source is a secondary source? What sources did its writer use?	Ms. Patel's book is a secondary source. She used Mr. Chen's notebook, old newspapers, and town records.
3	A student wants a first-person view of the bridge opening. Which source should the student use?	The student should use Mr. Chen's notebook, because he was at the opening and wrote about what he saw.
4	How can you tell that Ms. Patel's book is not a primary source about the bridge opening?	Ms. Patel did not see the opening herself, and she wrote her book eighty years later using older sources.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A photo I took at our school concert is a primary source because I made it while I was there. A book written next year using concert photos and interviews is a secondary source because its writer studies sources after the event.

Accept answers that correctly identify Mr. Chen's same-day notebook entry as primary and Ms. Patel's later book as secondary. For the open task, accept different event examples when the student gives a reasonable source and explanation for each type.