

Source Sleuth Sort

Tell original sources from sources that explain them.

3.13 "Inquiry and research: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts. The student engages in both short-term and sustained recursive inquiry processes for a variety of purposes..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

PRIMARY SOURCE

A primary source is made by someone who was there, or it is an original item from that time. It gives direct information.

An original map drawn by a soldier in 1944.

SECONDARY SOURCE

A secondary source explains or retells information from other sources. It is usually made later.

A museum booklet that summarizes Harriet Tubman's life.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For Part 1, circle PRIMARY or SECONDARY for each item, then for Part 2, choose two items and explain what makes each source primary or secondary.

1. A photograph taken by a firefighter during a fire

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

2. A letter written by a child during the Dust Bowl

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

3. A book that tells about the Dust Bowl using many sources

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

4. An audio recording of a mayor's speech made on speech day

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

5. An encyclopedia article about volcanoes

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

6. A video made today that explains ancient Egypt

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

7. A diary page written by a pioneer traveling west

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

8. A scorecard filled in during a baseball game last year

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 3, write one new PRIMARY source example and one new SECONDARY source example.

PRIMARY _____

SECONDARY _____

CHALLENGE

You are researching a town parade from 50 years ago. Choose the better source for learning what the parade looked like, a photo taken at the parade or a book written this year about town history. Explain your choice.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A photograph taken by a firefighter during a fire	PRIMARY	It was created during the event by a person who was there.
2	A letter written by a child during the Dust Bowl	PRIMARY	It is a firsthand record from the time.
3	A book that tells about the Dust Bowl using many sources	SECONDARY	It explains information gathered from other sources.
4	An audio recording of a mayor's speech made on speech day	PRIMARY	It records the original speech as it happened.
5	An encyclopedia article about volcanoes	SECONDARY	It explains information about volcanoes.
6	A video made today that explains ancient Egypt	SECONDARY	It is a later explanation of the past.
7	A diary page written by a pioneer traveling west	PRIMARY	It is a firsthand account from the journey.
8	A scorecard filled in during a baseball game last year	PRIMARY	It is an original record made during the game.

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:** A postcard mailed by a sailor during World War II.
- **SECONDARY:** A magazine article that explains the causes of World War II.

Challenge: The photo taken at the parade is better because it shows what people and floats looked like at that time. It is a primary source.

Accept other accurate explanations that identify whether a source is original and firsthand or a later explanation. For Part 2, students should name a clue from each source they chose.