

Moon Mission Clues

Sort sources by when and why they were created.

4.13.D "identify primary and secondary sources;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the two Apollo 11 sources in paragraph 2. Write P or S beside each one to show whether it is a primary or secondary source.

Researching a Moon Landing

- ① When researchers study a past event, they look for clues from different times. A primary source comes from the time of the event or from a person who was there. It might be a diary, a photograph, a speech, or a letter. A secondary source is made later by someone who studies primary sources. It may explain, compare, or tell the story of an event.
- ② To learn about Apollo 11, a student finds a transcript of radio messages sent between astronauts and mission control in July 1969. The student also finds a 2019 book by a space historian. The book uses mission records, interviews, and photographs to explain how the moon landing changed later space travel. Both sources can help, but they give information in different ways.
- ③ The transcript lets the student read words shared during the mission. Because people may speak quickly or leave out details, the student checks it with other sources. The historian's book gives a later overview and connects many pieces of evidence. Careful researchers ask who created each source, when it was created, and why it was made.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What makes a source a primary source?

2 Is the transcript of radio messages a primary or secondary source? Use one detail from the passage to explain.

3 Is the 2019 book a primary or secondary source? Use one detail from the passage to explain.

4 Why would the student use both the transcript and the historian's book?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a past event that interests you. Name one primary source and one secondary source you could use to learn about it, label each source, and explain why each label fits.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the two Apollo 11 sources in paragraph 2. Write P or S beside each one to show whether it is a primary or secondary source. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What makes a source a primary source?	It comes from the time of the event or from someone who was there.
2	Is the transcript of radio messages a primary or secondary source? Use one detail from the passage to explain.	Primary source. The messages were sent between astronauts and mission control during the July 1969 mission.
3	Is the 2019 book a primary or secondary source? Use one detail from the passage to explain.	Secondary source. It was written later by a historian who used records, interviews, and photographs.
4	Why would the student use both the transcript and the historian's book?	The transcript gives words from the mission, and the book gives a later overview that connects evidence.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

For the Wright brothers' 1903 flight, I would use a photograph taken at Kitty Hawk that day, a primary source because it was made during the event. I would use a later biography of the Wright brothers, a secondary source because the author looks back at evidence from the flight.

Accept equivalent explanations that correctly use when the source was created, who created it, and whether the creator experienced the event. In the open response, accept many possible events and sources if both labels and explanations are accurate.