

Flight Source Detectives

Weigh firsthand evidence and later explanations.

5.13.D "understand credibility of primary and secondary sources;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each source named in the passage. Circle the words that tell why a source is primary or secondary or how a reader can judge whether it is credible.

Evidence About the First Flight

- ① When researchers study the Wright brothers' first powered flight in 1903, they look for evidence. A photograph taken at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, shows the Flyer rising from the sand. This is a primary source because it was created at the time of the event. The photograph can strongly support the claim that a flight happened, but it cannot explain every detail by itself.
- ② Orville Wright later wrote an account describing the flight and the wind that day. His account is a primary source because he took part in the event, though readers should notice that he wrote it after the flight. A primary source may be useful, but it can show one person's viewpoint or leave out information the creator did not see.
- ③ A Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum web page explains why the Wright Flyer mattered. The museum's historians use photographs, records, and other evidence to build their explanation. This secondary source was made after the event. It is more credible when the page names its museum or author, gives dates, and links to evidence. Readers should compare it with primary sources before deciding what happened.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why is the photograph of the Flyer a primary source?

2 What claim can the photograph strongly support, and what is one limit of the photograph?

3 Which source in the passage is secondary, and name two features that can make it more credible.

4 Why should a reader compare the museum web page with primary sources?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose an event from your town, school, or family history. In three sentences, describe one primary source and one secondary source you could use, then explain what details you would compare before trusting the information.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each source named in the passage. Circle the words that tell why a source is primary or secondary or how a reader can judge whether it is credible. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why is the photograph of the Flyer a primary source?	It was created at the time of the first flight.
2	What claim can the photograph strongly support, and what is one limit of the photograph?	It supports the claim that a flight happened. It cannot explain every detail by itself.
3	Which source in the passage is secondary, and name two features that can make it more credible.	The Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum web page is secondary. It can name its museum or author, give dates, and link to evidence.
4	Why should a reader compare the museum web page with primary sources?	Comparing sources helps the reader decide what happened and check the explanation against firsthand evidence.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

For a report about a town flood, I would look for a photograph taken during the flood. I would also use a book by the local historical society that names its author and sources. The photograph could show flooded streets, while the book could explain causes and dates, so I would compare both sources.

Accept answers that correctly identify a firsthand or participant-created source as primary and a later explanation as secondary. For credibility, accept relevant reasons such as named author or organization, dates, evidence links, firsthand knowledge, limits, and comparison with other sources.