

Source Sleuth

Trace who created each account and how it was made.

6.12.E "differentiate between primary and secondary sources;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each description of a source. In the margin, write P for a primary source or S for a secondary source, using the creator's connection to the event as your clue.

Investigating Apollo 11

- ① Researchers use sources to learn about past events. A primary source comes from the time of an event or from someone with direct experience. For example, a diary written by a passenger on the Titanic is a primary source. A secondary source is created later by someone who studies, explains, or interprets evidence. A historian's article about the shipwreck, based on diaries and records, is a secondary source. The source type depends on who created it and why, not whether it is old.
- ② To investigate the Apollo 11 moon landing, Mia finds four sources. First, she reads a transcript of Neil Armstrong's words as he spoke from the Moon on July 20, 1969. Next, she watches a 2019 interview in which astronaut Michael Collins describes the mission and answers questions about his memories. Both records come from people who took part in the mission, even though one was recorded many years after the landing. Mia notes each creator's connection to the event.
- ③ Then Mia opens a 2024 encyclopedia entry about Apollo 11. The entry gives an overview of the mission and lists facts from NASA records, interviews, and books. She also finds a 2010 book by a space historian who compares astronauts' accounts with mission documents and explains why the landing mattered during the Cold War. Mia can use all four sources, but she must identify what each one can show. She also checks whether a writer is reporting direct experience or analyzing other evidence.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which two sources Mia finds are primary sources?

2 Why can Michael Collins's 2019 interview be a primary source even though it was recorded long after the landing?

3 What type of source is the 2024 encyclopedia entry? Use one detail from the passage to support your answer.

4 What type of source is the 2010 book by the space historian? Explain why.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a past event you want to investigate. In exactly two sentences, name one primary source and one secondary source you would use, label each, and explain why it fits.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each description of a source. In the margin, write P for a primary source or S for a secondary source, using the creator's connection to the event as your clue. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which two sources Mia finds are primary sources?	The transcript of Neil Armstrong's words and Michael Collins's 2019 interview.
2	Why can Michael Collins's 2019 interview be a primary source even though it was recorded long after the landing?	Collins took part in the mission and describes his own direct memories and experience.
3	What type of source is the 2024 encyclopedia entry? Use one detail from the passage to support your answer.	It is a secondary source because it gives an overview using facts from NASA records, interviews, and books.
4	What type of source is the 2010 book by the space historian? Explain why.	It is a secondary source because the historian compares accounts and documents and explains the event's importance.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Primary source: For a project about a town's 1998 flood, I would use a photograph taken by a resident during the flood because a witness created it at the time. Secondary source: I would use a historian's article that compares flood photographs, reports, and interviews because the historian analyzes evidence after the event.

Accept primary sources created during an event or by people with direct experience, including later interviews or recollections by participants. Accept secondary sources that summarize, explain, compare, or interpret evidence created by others.