

Source Detective Sort

Tell direct evidence from explanations about it.

6.12 "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 comes from the time being studied or from a person who was directly involved. It gives direct evidence.

A menu handed out on a restaurant's opening day.

SECONDARY SOURCE

A secondary source explains, analyzes, or summarizes information from other sources. It is usually created after the event or topic.

A museum display that explains ancient trade routes.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle PRIMARY or SECONDARY for each item, then choose two items in PROVE IT and explain how you knew.

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. A video recording of a new bridge opening | ☐ PRIMARY | ☐ SECONDARY |
| 2. A science textbook section explaining volcanoes | ☐ PRIMARY | ☐ SECONDARY |
| 3. A grocery store price list printed in 1985 | ☐ PRIMARY | ☐ SECONDARY |
| 4. An article comparing several accounts of the Oregon Trail | ☐ PRIMARY | ☐ SECONDARY |
| 5. A curator's review of reports about an artist | ☐ PRIMARY | ☐ SECONDARY |
| 6. Results from a poll conducted by student council | ☐ PRIMARY | ☐ SECONDARY |
| 7. A transcript of a mayor's speech at a flood evacuation meeting | ☐ PRIMARY | ☐ SECONDARY |
| 8. A webpage summarizing the life of Harriet Tubman | ☐ 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

Write one new PRIMARY source example and one new SECONDARY source example.

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

CHALLENGE

Write a research question, name one primary source and one secondary source that could help answer it, and tell what each source could add.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A video recording of a new bridge opening	PRIMARY	The recording was made during the event and shows direct evidence.
2	A science textbook section explaining volcanoes	SECONDARY	The textbook explains information gathered from other sources.
3	A grocery store price list printed in 1985	PRIMARY	The list was created at the time and shows original prices.
4	An article comparing several accounts of the Oregon Trail	SECONDARY	The article analyzes and compares other accounts.
5	A curator's review of reports about an artist	SECONDARY	The review explains information from other reports.
6	Results from a poll conducted by student council	PRIMARY	The poll results are original data collected by the student council.
7	A transcript of a mayor's speech at a flood evacuation meeting	PRIMARY	The transcript records words spoken by a person directly involved at the time.
8	A webpage summarizing the life of Harriet Tubman	SECONDARY	The webpage summarizes information about a historical person.

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 recipe written by a grandparent in 1962.
- **SECONDARY:** A magazine article explaining the history of skateboarding.

Challenge: Question: How did radio change family evenings in the 1930s? A family diary from 1935 could show one family's experience, and an article by a historian could explain changes in many families.

For PROVE IT, accept explanations that identify direct, time-of-event evidence for a primary source or explanation, analysis, or summary for a secondary source. A source can be primary for one research question and secondary for another, depending on how the student uses it.