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.

ANSWER KEY

Source Detective Sort

GRADE 6 · TEKS 6.12

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.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. 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.