

Source Time Machine

Trace evidence to classify primary and secondary sources.

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

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the three sources in the passage. Circle words or phrases that tell when each source was made, who made it, or what it contains, then use your markings to classify the sources.

After the 1906 Earthquake

- ① On April 18, 1906, a powerful earthquake struck San Francisco. Fires then burned for several days, destroying much of the city. To investigate how residents responded, a student finds a photograph by Arnold Genthe. Genthe took the picture on the afternoon of April 18. It shows people standing in Sacramento Street while smoke rises beyond them. The image captures one location and one moment, but it does not show where those people later found food or shelter.
- ② Another item is a page from the San Francisco Call dated April 19, 1906. Its headline announces destruction downtown, and its articles describe damaged buildings, fires, and crowded streets. Reporters gathered information quickly, so some details may be incomplete or mistaken. The page also includes notices about missing people and emergency services. A researcher can study its words, headlines, and publication date to learn what the newspaper presented to readers the day after the earthquake.
- ③ In 2005, historian Kevin Starr published *California: A History*, a broad account of the state. One section describes the earthquake and recovery alongside changes in city planning and rebuilding. Readers can find endnotes that point to photographs, newspapers, government reports, and other materials. Unlike the photograph's street scene or the newspaper's urgent notices, this book covers events across many years and places the 1906 disaster within California's larger history. A researcher might use its endnotes to locate additional materials about a question.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 Is Genthe's photograph a primary source or a secondary source? Use two details from the passage to support your answer.

- 2 Is the April 19 San Francisco Call page a primary source or a secondary source? Explain your classification.

- 3 Is Starr's California: A History a primary source or a secondary source for studying the 1906 earthquake? Use two passage details to support your answer.

- 4 Which source would be the stronger starting point for a broad question about how the earthquake changed city planning over time, Genthe's photograph or Starr's book? Explain why.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a school or community event. In exactly two sentences, describe one primary source and one secondary source a researcher could use to study the event, label each source, and explain why it fits its label.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Number the three sources in the passage. Circle words or phrases that tell when each source was made, who made it, or what it contains, then use your markings to classify the sources. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Is Genthe's photograph a primary source or a secondary source? Use two details from the passage to support your answer.	Primary source. Genthe took it on April 18, 1906, and it shows people and smoke in Sacramento Street that afternoon.
2	Is the April 19 San Francisco Call page a primary source or a secondary source? Explain your classification.	Primary source. It was published the day after the earthquake and presents headlines, articles, and notices from that time.
3	Is Starr's California: A History a primary source or a secondary source for studying the 1906 earthquake? Use two passage details to support your answer.	Secondary source. It was published in 2005 and gives a broad account that connects the earthquake to California history across many years.
4	Which source would be the stronger starting point for a broad question about how the earthquake changed city planning over time, Genthe's photograph or Starr's book? Explain why.	Starr's book. It discusses city planning and rebuilding and places the disaster within California's larger history across many years.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

For our school garden opening, a volunteer's photograph taken during the ceremony would be a primary source because it records the event as it happened. A school history website published one year later that summarizes the opening would be a secondary source because it looks back at the event.

Accept classifications supported by accurate evidence about when a source was created and its connection to the event. For the open response, accept different events and sources if each label and explanation are reasonable.