

Texas Source Detectives

Sort evidence and check sources about Texas history.

4.19.A “differentiate between, locate, and use valid primary and secondary sources such as technology; interviews; biographies; oral, print, and visual material; documents; and artifacts to acquire information about Texas;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each primary source named in the passage and underline each secondary source. Number the three checks for deciding whether a museum website is valid.

Evidence From Texas History

- ① Historians learn about Texas by studying sources, or pieces of evidence. A primary source gives firsthand evidence. It may be made during an event, such as a June 19, 1865, military order announcing freedom in Texas. It may also be a later recording of a person remembering an event they experienced. A secondary source explains or retells information gathered from primary sources.
- ② For a project about the 1900 Galveston hurricane, a researcher uses three primary sources. A newspaper printed on September 10, 1900, reports storm damage. A survivor's 1936 oral interview describes what she saw as a child during the storm. A broken clock, stopped by floodwater in 1900, is an artifact. These sources give evidence from people or objects connected to the event.
- ③ The researcher also reads a 2024 biography of Clara Barton, which mentions how she helped people after the Galveston storm. This is a secondary source because its author was not describing firsthand experience of the hurricane. A museum website can be useful technology, but check who runs it, where its facts came from, and whether it names sources. Comparing several valid sources helps historians make careful claims about Texas.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 Why can the survivor's 1936 oral interview be a primary source, even though it was recorded after the hurricane?

- 2 Which source in paragraph 2 is an artifact? What connects it to the hurricane?

- 3 Why is the 2024 biography of Clara Barton a secondary source?

- 4 Name two checks you should make before using a museum website as a valid source.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a Texas event you want to study. Write three sentences that name one possible primary source and one possible secondary source, tell what information they could give, and state one check you would make before using a source.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each primary source named in the passage and underline each secondary source. Number the three checks for deciding whether a museum website is valid. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why can the survivor's 1936 oral interview be a primary source, even though it was recorded after the hurricane?	The survivor describes what she saw during the storm, so the interview gives firsthand evidence from a person who experienced the event.
2	Which source in paragraph 2 is an artifact? What connects it to the hurricane?	The broken clock is the artifact. It was stopped by floodwater in 1900, connecting it to the hurricane.
3	Why is the 2024 biography of Clara Barton a secondary source?	Its author was not describing firsthand experience of the hurricane and was retelling information about it.
4	Name two checks you should make before using a museum website as a valid source.	Check who runs the website and where its facts came from. Students may instead say to check whether it names sources.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would study the Texas Revolution. A letter written in 1836 by a person who experienced the fighting could give firsthand details, while a history book about the revolution could explain events using many sources. I would check whether the book names the primary sources it used.

Accept any accurate Texas topic and sensible source choices. A primary source must provide firsthand evidence from the time or from a person recalling an event they experienced, while a secondary source explains or retells information; the response must include a reasonable validity check.