

Moon Sources Compared

Compare firsthand accounts with a later historical explanation.

4.19.B “differentiate and compare the information about a specific issue or event provided in primary and secondary sources;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details supplied by the two primary sources, and circle details supplied by the secondary source, so you can compare the kinds of information each gives.

Apollo 11 in Different Sources

- ① On July 20, 1969, the Apollo 11 spacecraft landed on the Moon. Astronaut Neil Armstrong stepped onto the surface first. A television broadcast from the Moon captured Armstrong saying, “That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.” This broadcast is a primary source. It gives Armstrong's own words from the event as it happened.
- ② Another primary source is a NASA transcript of the astronauts' radio messages. After Armstrong left the ladder, Buzz Aldrin described the Moon's surface as “magnificent desolation.” The transcript records what Aldrin noticed while he was there. It does not explain why the United States sent people to the Moon or what the landing meant years later.
- ③ In a book published many years afterward, historian Andrew Chaikin explains that Apollo 11 grew from years of space research and competition between the United States and the Soviet Union. His secondary source uses records, interviews, and other evidence to give a larger story. It can connect the landing to its historical setting, but it cannot give the astronauts' immediate words.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which sources in the passage are primary sources? Which source is a secondary source?

2 What information does the television broadcast give that is different from the NASA transcript?

3 What larger information can Chaikin's book explain that the primary sources do not explain?

4 How do the primary sources and the secondary source work together to help a reader understand Apollo 11?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Think of a school event you attended. Write one sentence naming a primary source and what it could tell, one sentence naming a secondary source and what it could tell, and two sentences comparing them.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details supplied by the two primary sources, and circle details supplied by the secondary source, so you can compare the kinds of information each gives. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sources in the passage are primary sources? Which source is a secondary source?	The television broadcast and the NASA transcript are primary sources. Andrew Chaikin's book is a secondary source.
2	What information does the television broadcast give that is different from the NASA transcript?	The broadcast gives Neil Armstrong's words as he stepped onto the Moon. The transcript gives Buzz Aldrin's description of the Moon's surface.
3	What larger information can Chaikin's book explain that the primary sources do not explain?	It explains the years of space research and competition between the United States and the Soviet Union.
4	How do the primary sources and the secondary source work together to help a reader understand Apollo 11?	The primary sources give the astronauts' immediate words and observations. The secondary source gives background and explains the landing's place in history.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A video I recorded at our school science fair is a primary source because it shows the projects and speeches as they happened. A school history article written the next year from reports and interviews is a secondary source because it can explain which projects won. The video shows what people saw and heard at that moment. The article gives a broader summary, but it was written later.

Accept equivalent descriptions of firsthand information from the broadcast and transcript, and later background or interpretation from the book. For the open response, accept a reasonable event and sources if the student correctly distinguishes immediate evidence from a later account.