

Source Sleuth Sort

Sort Texas sources by when and how they were created.

4.19 "Social studies skills. The student applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of valid sources, including technology. The student is expected to: differentiate between, locate..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

PRIMARY SOURCE

A primary source was made during the time being studied or by someone who experienced it. It gives direct evidence from that time.

An original ticket from the 1936 Texas Centennial is a primary source.

SECONDARY SOURCE

A secondary source was created later to explain, study, or retell the past. It often uses information from primary sources.

A scholar's essay interpreting Tejano music over time is a secondary source.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle PRIMARY or SECONDARY for each source, then choose two items and explain what clues helped you sort them.

- | | | | |
|----|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | A photograph taken at a 1969 Texas moon-landing watch party. | ☐ PRIMARY | ☐ SECONDARY |
| 2. | A diary entry written by a child who lived through the 1900 Galveston hurricane. | ☐ PRIMARY | ☐ SECONDARY |
| 3. | A website written in 2022 that explains the 1900 Galveston hurricane. | ☐ PRIMARY | ☐ SECONDARY |
| 4. | A video interview with a rancher describing work on a Texas ranch. | ☐ PRIMARY | ☐ SECONDARY |
| 5. | A biography of Barbara Jordan published after her death. | ☐ PRIMARY | ☐ SECONDARY |
| 6. | A museum label that summarizes how Texas oil fields changed towns. | ☐ PRIMARY | ☐ SECONDARY |
| 7. | A Texas state map printed in 1845. | ☐ PRIMARY | ☐ SECONDARY |
| 8. | A documentary made in 2015 about Texas cattle drives. | ☐ 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 and one new SECONDARY source about Texas.

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

CHALLENGE

Choose a Texas event, name one primary source and one secondary source about it, and tell one way the two sources might give different information.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A photograph taken at a 1969 Texas moon-landing watch party.	PRIMARY	The photograph was made at the time of the event.
2	A diary entry written by a child who lived through the 1900 Galveston hurricane.	PRIMARY	The writer experienced the event and wrote at that time.
3	A website written in 2022 that explains the 1900 Galveston hurricane.	SECONDARY	The website was created later to explain a past event.
4	A video interview with a rancher describing work on a Texas ranch.	PRIMARY	The rancher gives a firsthand account of personal experience.
5	A biography of Barbara Jordan published after her death.	SECONDARY	A biography retells and explains a person's life after the events happened.
6	A museum label that summarizes how Texas oil fields changed towns.	SECONDARY	The label summarizes and explains information from the past.
7	A Texas state map printed in 1845.	PRIMARY	The map was created in 1845 and is evidence from that time.
8	A documentary made in 2015 about Texas cattle drives.	SECONDARY	The documentary was made later to explain cattle drives from the past.

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 postcard mailed from El Paso in 1912.
- **SECONDARY:** A children's nonfiction magazine article about the Texas Revolution.

Challenge: For the Battle of the Alamo, a newspaper article published in 1836 is a primary source. A textbook written later is secondary, and it may use facts from many sources while the newspaper gives one report from that time.

Accept a student's explanation when it correctly identifies that a primary source comes from the time or a firsthand witness, while a secondary source explains the past later. For the challenge, students should name both source types and make a reasonable comparison of the information each could provide.