

Culture Source Detectives

Use source clues to investigate a cultural celebration.

6.19.A “differentiate between, locate, and use valid primary and secondary sources such as oral, print, and visual material and artifacts to acquire information about various world cultures;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each source Elena uses. Write P for primary or S for secondary beside each one, then circle details that help her judge whether a source is valid or limited.

Researching Día de los Muertos

- ① To learn about Día de los Muertos in Mexico, a student named Elena begins with an oral source. She listens to a recorded 2019 interview held by a public university archive. In it, a Mexican artist explains how her family prepares an ofrenda, an altar that honors relatives who have died. Because the artist describes her own family practice, the interview is a primary source. Elena notes the speaker, archive, and date so she can judge where the information came from.
- ② At a museum website, Elena finds a 1940 photograph of a family carrying marigolds to a cemetery in Oaxaca. The photograph is a primary visual source because it was created during the period it shows. Its museum record names the photographer, date, and collection. Elena does not assume that one photograph represents every Mexican family. She compares it with a clay sugar-skull mold preserved by the same museum. The artifact is also primary evidence of a material used in the celebration.
- ③ Finally, Elena reads a 2022 book by a historian who studied Día de los Muertos using interviews, records, and earlier research. This print source is secondary because the historian explains and interprets information gathered from many sources. Elena checks whether the book lists citations and is published by a reliable press. She uses the interview to learn one family's experience, the photograph and mold to examine visual and material evidence, and the book to compare broader historical explanations. Using several valid sources helps her avoid making claims from only one viewpoint.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why is the recorded interview a primary source?

2 What details in the museum record help Elena evaluate and locate the photograph? Name two.

3 Which source would Elena use for evidence about a material used in the celebration? Explain why.

4 What two checks does Elena use to decide whether the historian's book is valid?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a world culture or cultural practice you want to study. Complete the table with three sources, including one oral source, one print source, and one visual source or artifact. Show how you would check each source and what information it could provide.

SOURCE AND LOCATION	PRIMARY OR SECONDARY, AND FORMAT	INFORMATION IT COULD PROVIDE	VALIDITY CHECK

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each source Elena uses. Write P for primary or S for secondary beside each one, then circle details that help her judge whether a source is valid or limited. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why is the recorded interview a primary source?	It is a primary source because the artist describes her own family's Día de los Muertos practice.
2	What details in the museum record help Elena evaluate and locate the photograph? Name two.	The record gives the photographer, the date, and the collection. Any two are correct.
3	Which source would Elena use for evidence about a material used in the celebration? Explain why.	She would use the clay sugar-skull mold because it is a primary artifact and provides material evidence.
4	What two checks does Elena use to decide whether the historian's book is valid?	She checks whether the book lists citations and whether a reliable press published it.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

SOURCE AND LOCATION	PRIMARY OR SECONDARY, AND FORMAT	INFORMATION IT COULD PROVIDE	VALIDITY CHECK
Recorded interview with a local Korean American elder about Chuseok, with permission	Primary, oral	Personal Chuseok traditions	Record the speaker's name, date, and permission
Hanbok in a museum collection, museum catalog	Primary, artifact and visual	Clothing materials and design	Check the object date and museum record
Book about Korean holidays by a historian, public library	Secondary, print	Historical background about Chuseok	Check the author, publisher, date, and citations

Accept equivalent explanations that correctly identify how a source's creator, date, location, citations, or publisher supports validity. For Part 3, accept varied cultures and sources if the student includes the required formats, a reasonable classification, a source use, and a validity check.