

Source Sleuth Sort

Tell firsthand evidence from later explanations.

8.29 "Social studies skills. The student applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired through established research methodologies from a variety of valid sources, including technology..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

PRIMARY SOURCE

A primary source was created by someone who lived during an event or experienced it. It gives firsthand evidence from that time.

A photograph taken during the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

SECONDARY SOURCE

A secondary source explains, analyzes, or retells information about the past. It is created later, often using primary sources as evidence.

A 1995 book analyzing how the Erie Canal changed trade.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle PRIMARY or SECONDARY for each source, then for Part 2, choose two items and explain what details helped you classify them.

1. A diary entry written by a Texas nurse during the 1918 flu pandemic.

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

2. A 1942 ration book issued to a U.S. family.

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

3. A 2018 museum article explaining World War II rationing.

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

4. A recorded 1965 speech by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

5. A historian's biography of Harriet Tubman, published in 2004.

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

6. A documentary made in 2020 about the Great Migration.

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

7. A textbook section that explains the New Deal.

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

8. A 1776 newspaper notice printed in Philadelphia.

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 example and one new SECONDARY source example about United States history.

PRIMARY _____

SECONDARY _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one SECONDARY item. Name a PRIMARY source that could help check its information, and explain why it would help.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A diary entry written by a Texas nurse during the 1918 flu pandemic.	PRIMARY	The nurse wrote the diary while experiencing the event.
2	A 1942 ration book issued to a U.S. family.	PRIMARY	The ration book is an artifact created during World War II.
3	A 2018 museum article explaining World War II rationing.	SECONDARY	The article was created later to explain a past topic.
4	A recorded 1965 speech by President Lyndon B. Johnson.	PRIMARY	The speech is a record created by a participant at the time.
5	A historian's biography of Harriet Tubman, published in 2004.	SECONDARY	The historian wrote later about Tubman's life.
6	A documentary made in 2020 about the Great Migration.	SECONDARY	The documentary explains a historical event after it occurred.
7	A textbook section that explains the New Deal.	SECONDARY	The textbook interprets and summarizes a past period.
8	A 1776 newspaper notice printed in Philadelphia.	PRIMARY	The notice was printed during the historical time being studied.

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 1931 letter written by a farmer describing the Dust Bowl.
- **SECONDARY:** A 2012 article explaining the causes of the Dust Bowl.

Challenge: For item 5, I could use a letter written at the time by a person who traveled with Harriet Tubman. It could provide firsthand details to compare with the biography.

PRIMARY: 1, 2, 4, 8. SECONDARY: 3, 5, 6, 7. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify whether the source was created during the event by a participant or later to explain the past.