

Source Time Machine

Sort sources by how they connect to an event or topic.

8.R.1 "Evaluation and Synthesis of Information Formulate and revise questions about a research topic, broadening or narrowing the inquiry as necessary. Collect, organize..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

PRIMARY SOURCE

A primary source is an original record or firsthand account created during or close to the time of an event. It gives direct evidence.

An official transcript from a 1970 city council meeting.

SECONDARY SOURCE

A secondary source explains, analyzes, or interprets information from primary sources. It is created after someone studies the topic.

A book that interprets the rise of jazz music.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For Part 1, circle PRIMARY or SECONDARY for each source, then for Part 2, choose two items and explain what makes each source primary or secondary.

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. A diary a nurse wrote during the 1918 flu pandemic | ☐ PRIMARY | ☐ SECONDARY |
| 2. An audio recording of an eyewitness describing a 1963 march | ☐ PRIMARY | ☐ SECONDARY |
| 3. A textbook chapter explaining the causes of World War I | ☐ PRIMARY | ☐ SECONDARY |
| 4. A photograph taken at a 1930s construction site | ☐ PRIMARY | ☐ SECONDARY |
| 5. A biography recounting Ada Lovelace's life | ☐ PRIMARY | ☐ SECONDARY |
| 6. A museum website article summarizing ancient Egyptian farming | ☐ PRIMARY | ☐ SECONDARY |
| 7. A chart listing daily rainfall measured by a city weather station | ☐ PRIMARY | ☐ SECONDARY |
| 8. A podcast episode analyzing a Supreme Court decision | ☐ 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 any topic.

PRIMARY _____

SECONDARY _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one primary source you wrote and name a secondary source that could help you study the same topic, then explain why it is secondary.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A diary a nurse wrote during the 1918 flu pandemic	PRIMARY	It is a firsthand record written during the event.
2	An audio recording of an eyewitness describing a 1963 march	PRIMARY	It preserves a firsthand account from someone who was there.
3	A textbook chapter explaining the causes of World War I	SECONDARY	It explains and interprets past events using research.
4	A photograph taken at a 1930s construction site	PRIMARY	It is an original image created at the time.
5	A biography recounting Ada Lovelace's life	SECONDARY	It tells and interprets information about her life after the fact.
6	A museum website article summarizing ancient Egyptian farming	SECONDARY	It summarizes information about a historical topic.
7	A chart listing daily rainfall measured by a city weather station	PRIMARY	It is original data recorded as measurements were taken.
8	A podcast episode analyzing a Supreme Court decision	SECONDARY	It analyzes a source or event rather than serving as the original record.

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 video filmed during a city parade in 2005.
- **SECONDARY:** A history book explaining why the Berlin Wall fell.

Challenge: For the video of a city parade, I could use a book about the parade's history. The book is secondary because its author explains information about the event after studying sources.

Accept equivalent examples when the student correctly identifies whether the source is an original record or an interpretation. For Part 2, look for an explanation that connects the source's creation and purpose to its category.