Source Detective

Tell firsthand evidence from later analysis.

8.R "The student will conduct research and read a series of conceptually related texts on selected topics to build knowledge on grade-eight content and texts, solve problems, and support cross-curricular learning..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PRIMARY SOURCE

A primary source comes directly from a person who experienced an event or collected information firsthand. It gives original evidence.

A scientist's lab notebook recording plant-growth measurements.

SECONDARY SOURCE

A secondary source explains, analyzes, or combines information from other sources. It helps readers understand a topic.

A magazine article explaining findings from several archaeology studies.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle PRIMARY or SECONDARY for each source, then choose two items and explain which detail proves each choice.

1.	A photograph taken by an astronaut during the Apollo 11 mission	PRIMARY	SECONDARY
2.	A transcript of an interview with a wildfire survivor	PRIMARY	SECONDARY
3.	A documentary explaining the history of the space race	PRIMARY	SECONDARY
4.	The official text of a law passed in 1964	PRIMARY	SECONDARY
5.	Raw water-quality measurements collected from a river	PRIMARY	SECONDARY
6.	A news analysis comparing two reports about climate policy	PRIMARY	SECONDARY
7.	An encyclopedia entry about the Harlem Renaissance	PRIMARY	SECONDARY
8.	A speech delivered by Malala Yousafzai at the United Nations	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.

PRIMARY _____

SECONDARY _____

CHALLENGE

Write a research question about a historical event. Name one primary source and one secondary source that could help answer it, and explain in one sentence why each source is useful.

ANSWER KEY # Source Detective

GRADE 8 · 8.R

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A photograph taken by an astronaut during the Apollo 11 mission	**PRIMARY**	The photograph was created during the event by a participant.
2	A transcript of an interview with a wildfire survivor	**PRIMARY**	The survivor gives a firsthand account of the event.
3	A documentary explaining the history of the space race	**SECONDARY**	The documentary interprets and explains past events.
4	The official text of a law passed in 1964	**PRIMARY**	The original law document is direct evidence of its wording.
5	Raw water-quality measurements collected from a river	**PRIMARY**	The measurements are original data collected firsthand.
6	A news analysis comparing two reports about climate policy	**SECONDARY**	The analysis examines and compares other reports.
7	An encyclopedia entry about the Harlem Renaissance	**SECONDARY**	The entry summarizes information about the topic.
8	A speech delivered by Malala Yousafzai at the United Nations	**PRIMARY**	The speech is the speaker's original words.

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 letter written by a soldier during World War I.
- **SECONDARY**: A scholarly article that interprets World War I letters.

Challenge: Research question: How did families respond to rationing during World War II? Primary source: A 1943 letter from a parent describing ration coupons would be useful because it gives a firsthand account from the time. Secondary source: A historian's book about wartime rationing would be useful because it explains patterns using evidence from many sources.

Accept explanations that identify firsthand or original evidence for primary sources and explanation, analysis, or summary for secondary sources. A source's category can depend on the research question, but each item is classified by its most direct use here.