

Name: _____

Primary and Secondary Sources

Sources are materials that provide information about an event or topic. Documents, visual media, sound recordings, and physical objects are all sources. Some people only think of social studies when they think of sources. However, sources exist in all subject areas. No matter the subject area, there are always two main kinds of sources.

Primary sources are made by people who were there to see or experience something themselves. They are firsthand accounts. A letter from a WWI soldier and unedited film from a journalist are primary sources. So are objects and buildings made during the time being studied. Original fiction works like novels or a scientist's research data are primary sources too.

Secondary sources are secondhand accounts. They are made by people who did not experience something themselves. They must comment on or help explain primary sources. Sometimes they even comment on other secondary sources! Think of a textbook that uses information from the soldier's letter. A documentary uses film edited to tell a story. Have you written essays about books or read a newspaper article talking about a new scientific study? Those are also secondary sources.

Check the box to identify if the example is a primary (**P**) or secondary (**S**) source.

	P	S
1. long encyclopedia article about Ada Lovelace	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. video essay about Mayan artifacts discovered recently	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. photo of women protesting for the right to vote	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. 2023 painting of a moment during the French Revolution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. recording of an interview with Mahatma Gandhi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. part of a dinner plate recovered from the <i>Titanic</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. exact copy of the Constitution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. well-researched biography on Vincent van Gogh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. a blog review of a found-footage documentary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. diary kept by a poor sailor in the late 1700s.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ANSWER KEY

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