Primary and Secondary Sources

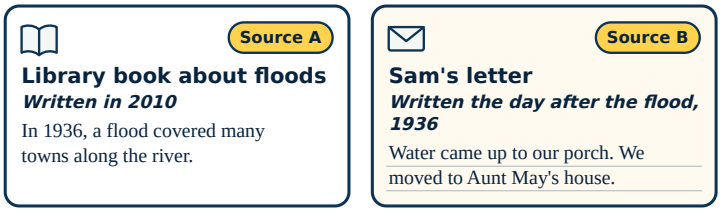
Grade 3 Social Studies Worksheet

PencilGo

Name _____ Date _____

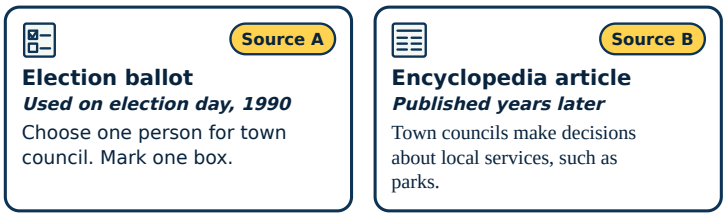
Circle the answer.

1. Which of these is a primary source about the 1936 flood?



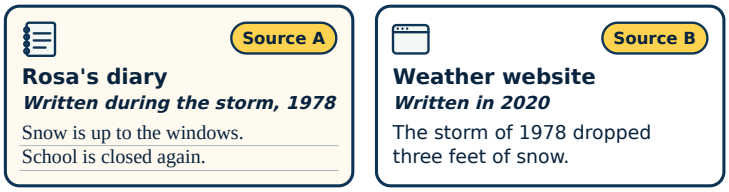
a 2020 website about the flood
Sam's letter
a movie made last year about it
the library book about floods

2. Why is the election ballot a primary source?



It was printed many years later.
It tells about many elections.
Voters used it on election day.
It explains what councils do.

3. Which source was written long after the snowstorm?



a photo taken during the storm
Rosa's diary
a note Rosa's mom wrote that day
the weather website

4. Which detail comes only from the construction photograph?

Source A

Construction photograph

Taken while the bridge was being built



Caption: Workers place steel beams over the river.

Source B

Newspaper article

Written after the bridge opened

The new bridge helps people cross the river faster.

workers placing steel beams
the day the bridge opened
people crossing the river faster
how much the bridge cost

5. A historian wants to know what visitors read on opening day. Which source should she use?

Source A

History book chapter

Written years later

Neighbors built the garden as a shared space for the town.

Source B

Opening-day program

Printed for visitors on opening day

Welcome to our new garden!
Planting starts at 10.

a garden club website
the opening-day program
the history book chapter
a 2019 newspaper story

6. Which source was made long after the train station opened?

Source A

Documentary film

Made in 2005

Crowds cheered when the first train arrived. The station helped the town grow.

Source B

Telegram to the mayor

Sent on opening day, 1905

First train arrived at noon.
Crowd of 500 cheering.

a ticket from the first train
a photo from opening day
the documentary film
the telegram to the mayor

7. What does the cleanup report tell us that the interview does not?

Source A

Cleanup report

Written after many cleanups

Several cleanups helped remove trash from local rivers.

Source B

Volunteer interview

Recorded during the cleanup

I carried three bags of trash from the riverbank today.

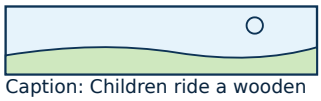
Many cleanups helped the rivers.
One volunteer carried three bags.
The volunteer worked that day.
The riverbank was very muddy.

8. How do you know the magazine article is a secondary source?

Source A

Fair photograph

Taken at the town fair, 1952



Caption: Children ride a wooden merry-go-round.

Source B

Magazine article

Written in 2012

The town fair has been held every summer since 1950.

It talks about the children.
It was written 60 years after the fair.
It was printed on paper.
It has a title at the top.

9. Ella's diary says her room had one wood stove. What kind of evidence is this?

Source A

Museum article

Written in 2015

The old school had one room. It closed in 1950.

Source B

Ella's diary

Written by Ella, a student, in 1925

We sat on long benches. Our room had one wood stove.

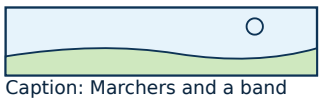
a guess made years later
evidence from someone who was there
a fact from a museum
a summary of many records

10. Why might a historian look at both the parade photograph and the textbook?

Source A

Parade photograph

Taken on parade day



Caption: Marchers and a band fill Main Street.

Source B

Town history textbook

Written many years later

The parade became a yearly event after that first march.

to compare a first-hand view with a later summary
because the photograph has no facts
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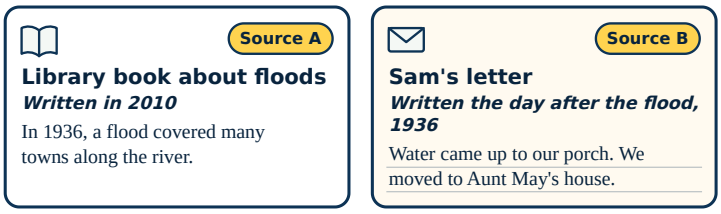
Scan to get this marked free. No screen time for your child.
Print it · do it in pencil · scan it · PencilGo picks the next sheet.

Primary and Secondary Sources

Answer Key - Grade 3 Social Studies Worksheet

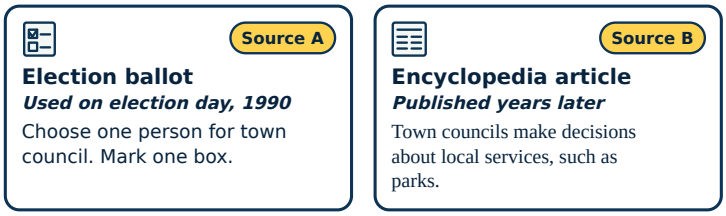
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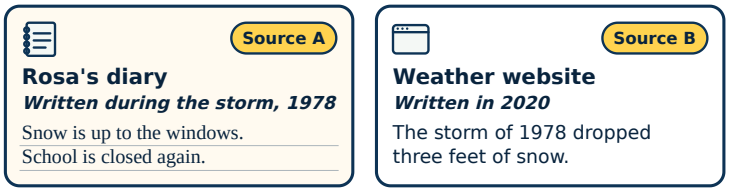
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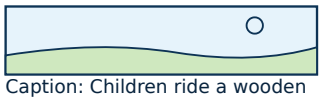
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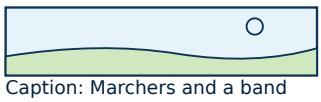
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