Primary and Secondary Sources

Grade 3 Social Studies Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

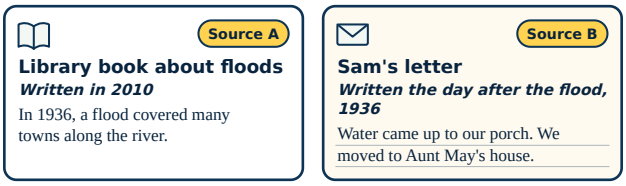
Circle the answer.

1. What can Sam's letter tell us that the library book cannot?



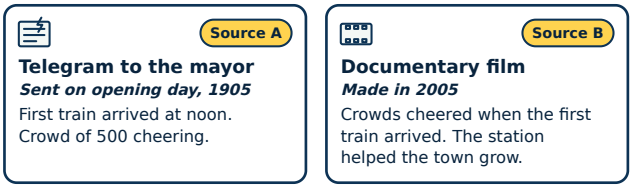
what the flood was like for one family
why rivers flood in spring
what happened years after the flood
how many towns the flood covered

2. Which source would best tell how many towns flooded in 1936?



the library book about floods
Sam's letter
a photo of Sam's porch
a diary from one farm

3. What do the telegram and the film both say?



People cheered when the first train came.
The first train arrived at noon.
The town grew for 100 years.
Exactly 500 people came.

4. The cleanup report used many interviews like this one. What does that show?

Source A
Volunteer interview
Recorded during the cleanup
I carried three bags of trash from the riverbank today.

Source B
Cleanup report
Written after many cleanups
Several cleanups helped remove trash from local rivers.

Primary sources are written after secondary ones.
Reports are made on the day of an event.
Interviews are always secondary sources.
Secondary sources can be built from primary sources.

5. The website says three feet of snow fell. How could a historian check this?

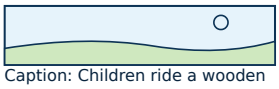
Source A
Rosa's diary
Written during the storm, 1978
Snow is up to the windows.
School is closed again.

Source B
Weather website
Written in 2020
The storm of 1978 dropped three feet of snow.

ask a student today
read another website from 2020
look for records made during the storm
count the words in Rosa's diary

6. Which question could the fair photograph answer best?

Source A
Magazine article
Written in 2012
The town fair has been held every summer since 1950.

Source B
Fair photograph
Taken at the town fair, 1952

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

Who runs the fair today?
How many years has the fair been held?
Why did the town start a fair?
What rides did children use in 1952?

7. The museum article says the school closed in 1950. Why can't Ella's 1925 diary tell us that?

Source A
Ella's diary
Written by Ella, a student, in 1925
We sat on long benches. Our room had one wood stove.

Source B
Museum article
Written in 2015
The old school had one room. It closed in 1950.

Diaries are never true.
Ella did not like the school.
It was written before the school closed.
It was written after 1950.

8. Which source would best show how the bridge was built?

Source A
Newspaper article
Written after the bridge opened
The new bridge helps people cross the river faster.

Source B
Construction photograph
Taken while the bridge was being built

Caption: Workers place steel beams over the river.

a 2020 travel guide
the newspaper article
the construction photograph
a bridge map from today

9. Why might a historian use both the ballot and the encyclopedia article?

Source A
Encyclopedia article
Published years later
Town councils make decisions about local services, such as parks.

Source B
Election ballot
Used on election day, 1990
Choose one person for town council. Mark one box.

One shows the real vote; one explains councils.
Both were written much later.
Both were used on election day.
The ballot explains what councils do.

10. The program says 'Planting starts at 10.' What does this tell a historian?

Source A
Opening-day program
Printed for visitors on opening day
Welcome to our new garden! Planting starts at 10.

Source B
History book chapter
Written years later
Neighbors built the garden as a shared space for the town.

why neighbors built the garden
how the garden looks today
what was planned for opening day
who wrote the history book

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 - Challenge Me

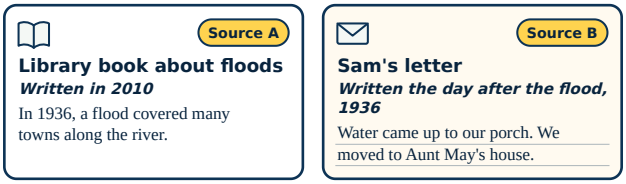
Circle the answer.

1. What can Sam's letter tell us that the library book cannot?



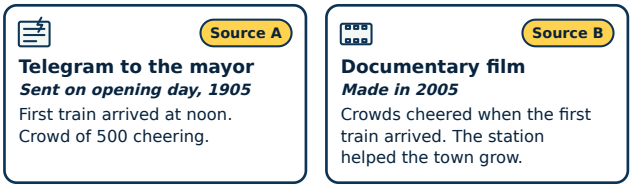
what the flood was like for one family
why rivers flood in spring
what happened years after the flood
how many towns the flood covered

2. Which source would best tell how many towns flooded in 1936?



the library book about floods
Sam's letter
a photo of Sam's porch
a diary from one farm

3. What do the telegram and the film both say?



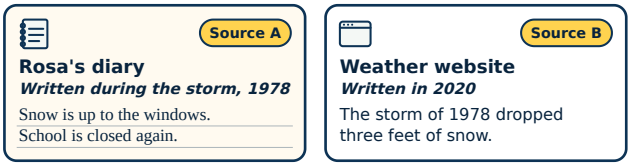
People cheered when the first train came.
The first train arrived at noon.
The town grew for 100 years.
Exactly 500 people came.

4. The cleanup report used many interviews like this one. What does that show?



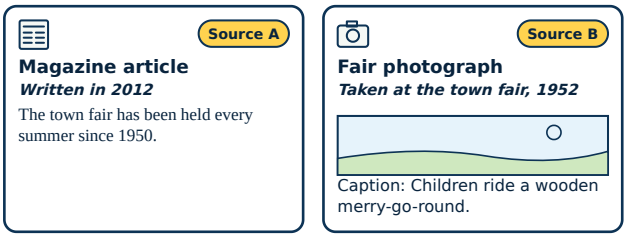
Primary sources are written after secondary ones.
Reports are made on the day of an event.
Interviews are always secondary sources.
Secondary sources can be built from primary sources.

5. The website says three feet of snow fell. How could a historian check this?



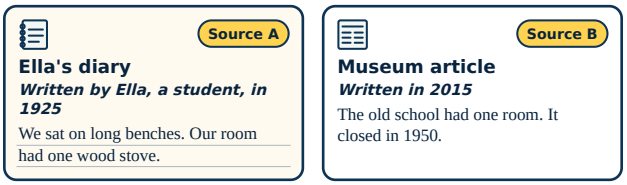
ask a student today
read another website from 2020
look for records made during the storm
count the words in Rosa's diary

6. Which question could the fair photograph answer best?



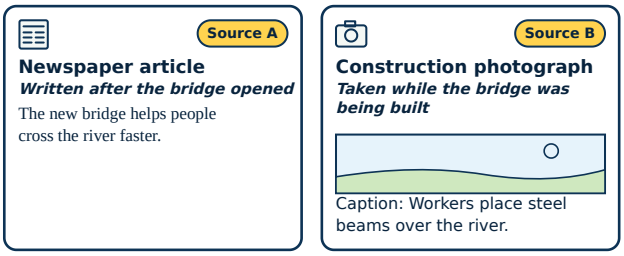
Who runs the fair today?
How many years has the fair been held?
Why did the town start a fair?
What rides did children use in 1952?

7. The museum article says the school closed in 1950. Why can't Ella's 1925 diary tell us that?



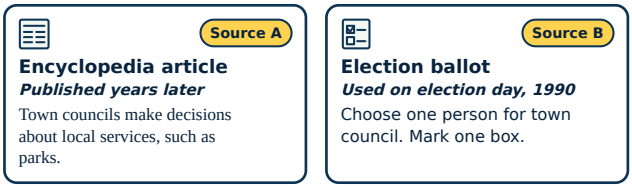
Diaries are never true.
Ella did not like the school.
It was written before the school closed.
It was written after 1950.

8. Which source would best show how the bridge was built?



a 2020 travel guide
the newspaper article
the construction photograph
a bridge map from today

9. Why might a historian use both the ballot and the encyclopedia article?



One shows the real vote; one explains councils.
Both were written much later.
Both were used on election day.
The ballot explains what councils do.

10. The program says 'Planting starts at 10.' What does this tell a historian?



why neighbors built the garden
how the garden looks today
what was planned for opening day
who wrote the history book