Primary and Secondary Sources

Grade 3 Social Studies Worksheet - Building Confidence

Name _____ Date _____

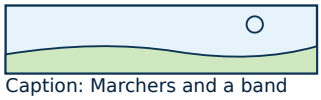
Circle the answer.

1. Look at both sources. Which one is a primary source about the parade?

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.

the parade photograph
the town history textbook
a website about the parade written later

2. When was Ella's diary written?

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.

while Ella went to the old school
many years after the school closed
before the school was built

3. Which source was made on the garden's opening day?

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.

the history book chapter
a garden website made later
the opening-day program

4. Look at both sources. Which one is a secondary source?

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.

the election ballot
the encyclopedia article
a voter's letter from election day

5. Why is the volunteer interview a primary source?

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.

It was written years later.
It talks about many cleanups.
The speaker was at the cleanup.

6. What does the construction photograph show?

Source A

Newspaper article

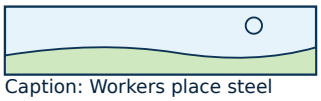
Written after the bridge opened

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.

cars driving over the finished bridge
people cutting a ribbon to open it
workers placing beams over the river

7. Sam's letter was written the day after the flood. What kind of source is it?

Source A

Sam's letter

Written the day after the flood, 1936

Water came up to our porch. We moved to Aunt May's house.

Source B

Library book about floods

Written in 2010

In 1936, a flood covered many towns along the river.

a secondary source a primary source a textbook

8. Look at Rosa's diary. What was happening when she wrote it?

Source A

Weather website

Written in 2020

The storm of 1978 dropped three feet of snow.

Source B

Rosa's diary

Written during the storm, 1978

Snow is up to the windows.

School is closed again.

School was open as usual.
Snow was up to the windows.
The snow had melted.

9. Which source was written many years after the parade?

Source A

Town history textbook

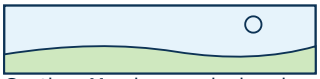
Written many years later

The parade became a yearly event after that first march.

Source B

Parade photograph

Taken on parade day



Caption: Marchers and a band fill Main Street.

the parade photograph
a marcher's diary from parade day
the town history textbook

10. The telegram was sent on the day the first train came. Who most likely sent it?

Source A

Telegram to the mayor

Sent on opening day, 1905

First train arrived at noon. Crowd of 500 cheering.

Source B

Documentary film

Made in 2005

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

a student in 2005
someone at the station that day
a writer 100 years later

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Print it · do it in pencil · scan it · PencilGo picks the next sheet.

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Social Studies Worksheet - Building Confidence

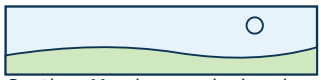
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(the opening-day program)

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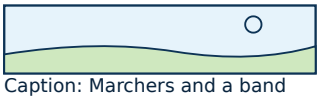
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