Primary and Secondary Sources

Grade 3 Social Studies Worksheet

PencilGo

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

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

2. 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.

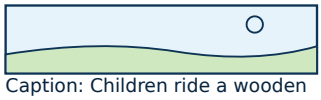
The volunteer worked that day.
One volunteer carried three bags.
The riverbank was very muddy.
Many cleanups helped the rivers.

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

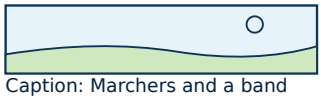
4. Ella's diary says her room had one wood stove. What kind of evidence is this?

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.

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

5. 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 see which source looks older
to compare a first-hand view with a later summary
because textbooks are never wrong
because the photograph has no facts

6. When was the library book about floods written?

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.

the day after the flood
in 2010, long after the flood
before the flood happened
during the flood in 1936

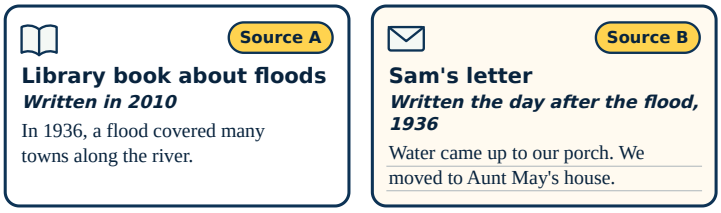
7. Which sentence comes from a primary source?

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.

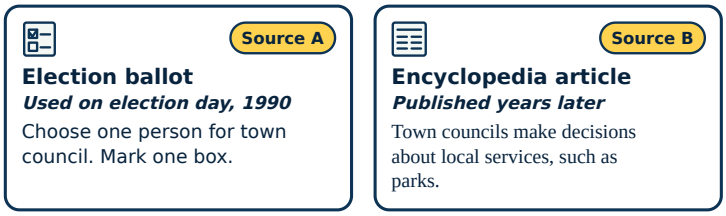
Schools closed for many days that winter.
Snow is up to the windows.
Storms like this happen every 50 years.
The storm of 1978 dropped three feet of snow.

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



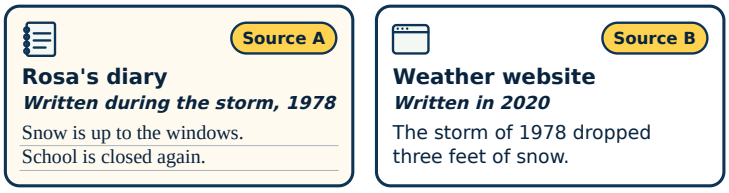
a movie made last year about it
the library book about floods
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9. Why is the election ballot a primary source?



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

10. Which source was written long after the snowstorm?



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

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.

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Social Studies Worksheet

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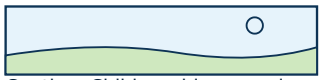
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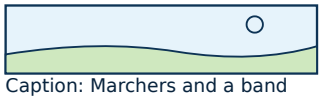
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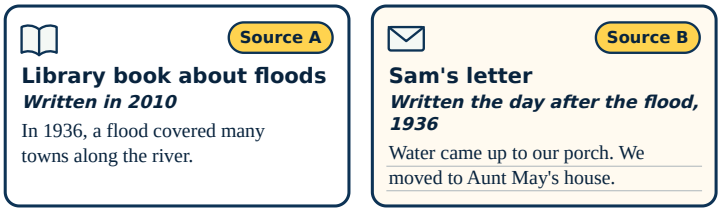
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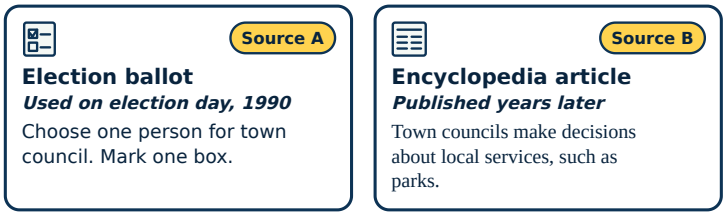
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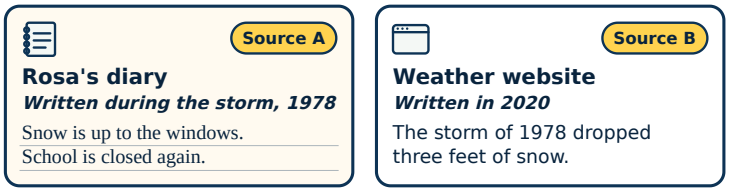
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