Primary and Secondary Sources

Grade 3 Social Studies Worksheet

PencilGo

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

1. 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.

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

2. 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.

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

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

Source A

Library book about floods

Written in 2010

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

Source B

Sam's letter

Written the day after the flood, 1936

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

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

4. Why is the election ballot a primary source?

Source A

Election ballot

Used on election day, 1990

Choose one person for town council. Mark one box.

Source B

Encyclopedia article

Published years later

Town councils make decisions about local services, such as parks.

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

5. Which source was written long after the snowstorm?

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.

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

6. 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.

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

7. 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.

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

8. 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

9. 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.

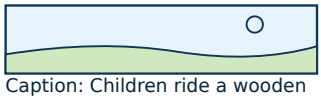
The riverbank was very muddy.
One volunteer carried three bags.
Many cleanups helped the rivers.
The volunteer worked that day.

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

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

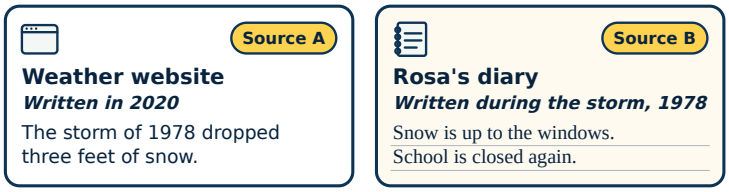
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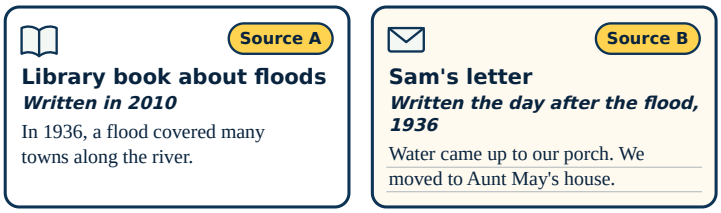
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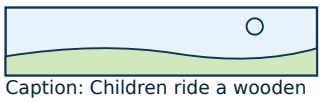
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