Primary and Secondary Sources

Grade 3 Social Studies Worksheet - Building Confidence

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

1. Which source shows what the 1952 fair looked like?

Source A

Magazine article

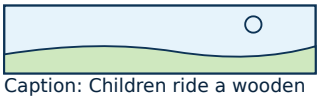
Written in 2012

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.

the fair photograph a fair map from 2020 the magazine article

2. Which source was written by someone who was not at the old school?

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.

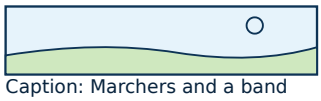
the museum article
a letter from Ella's teacher in 1925
Ella's diary

3. 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

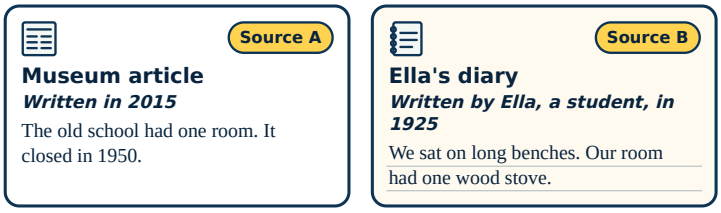
Town history textbook

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

4. When was Ella's diary written?



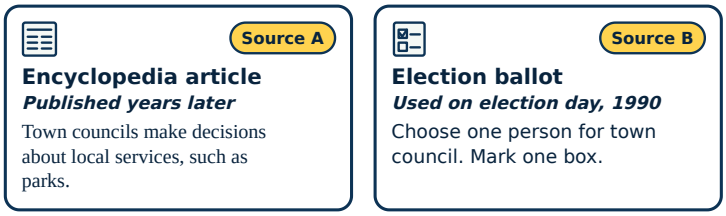
many years after the school closed
before the school was built
while Ella went to the old school

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



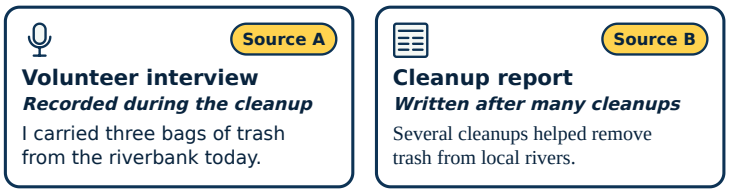
the history book chapter
a garden website made later
the opening-day program

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



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

7. Why is the volunteer interview a primary source?



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

8. 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.

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

9. 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

10. 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.

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

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 - Building Confidence

Circle the answer.

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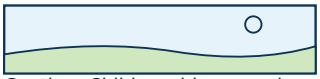
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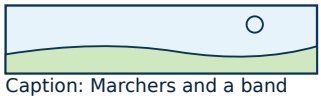
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many years after the school closed
before the school was built
(while Ella went to the old school)

5. 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

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

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

8. What does the construction photograph show?

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Newspaper article

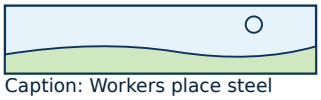
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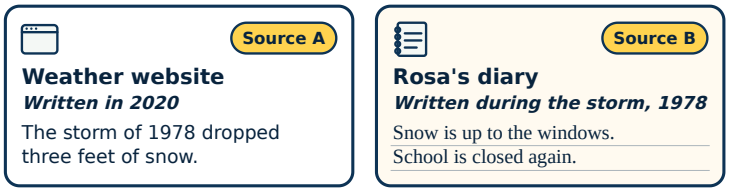
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