Primary and Secondary Sources

Grade 3 Social Studies Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

1. 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
how much the bridge cost
workers placing steel beams

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

3. 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
the telegram to the mayor
a ticket from the first train

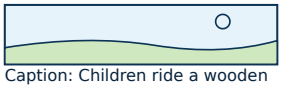
4. What does the cleanup report tell us that the interview does not?

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.

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

5. 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.

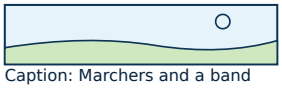
6. Ella's diary says her room had one wood stove. What kind of evidence is this?

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.

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

7. 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.

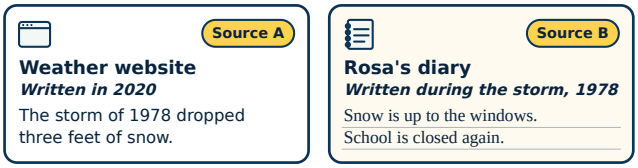
because textbooks are never wrong
to compare a first-hand view with a later summary
because the photograph has no facts
to see which source looks older

8. When was the library book about floods written?



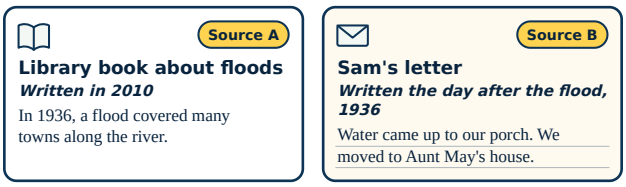
before the flood happened
in 2010, long after the flood
the day after the flood
during the flood in 1936

9. Which sentence comes from a primary source?



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

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



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

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Social Studies Worksheet

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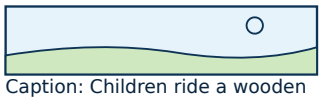
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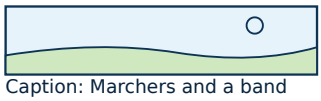
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because textbooks are never wrong

to compare a first-hand view with a later summary

because the photograph has no facts

to see which source looks older

8. 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.

before the flood happened

in 2010, long after the flood

the day after the flood

during the flood in 1936

9. 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.

Schools closed for many days that winter.

Storms like this happen every 50 years.

10. 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.

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