Primary and Secondary Sources

Grade 3 Social Studies Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

1. The cleanup report used many interviews like this one. What does that show?

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.

Interviews are always secondary sources.
Reports are made on the day of an event.
Secondary sources can be built from primary sources.
Primary sources are written after secondary ones.

2. The website says three feet of snow fell. How could a historian check this?

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.

read another website from 2020
count the words in Rosa's diary
ask a student today
look for records made during the storm

3. Which question could the fair photograph answer best?

Source A

Magazine article

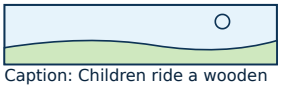
Written in 2012

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.

How many years has the fair been held?
Who runs the fair today?
What rides did children use in 1952?
Why did the town start a fair?

4. The museum article says the school closed in 1950. Why can't Ella's 1925 diary tell us that?

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.

It was written before the school closed.
Ella did not like the school.
It was written after 1950.
Diaries are never true.

5. Which source would best show how the bridge was built?

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.

the newspaper article
the construction photograph
a 2020 travel guide
a bridge map from today

6. Why might a historian use both the ballot and the encyclopedia article?

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.

Both were used on election day.
The ballot explains what councils do.
Both were written much later.
One shows the real vote; one explains councils.

7. The program says 'Planting starts at 10.' What does this tell a historian?

Source A

Opening-day program

Printed for visitors on opening day

Welcome to our new garden! Planting starts at 10.

Source B

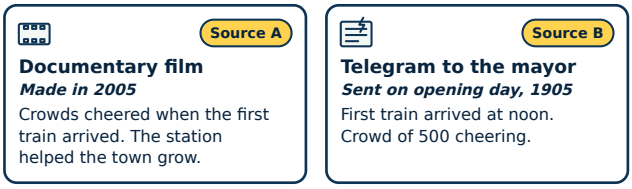
History book chapter

Written years later

Neighbors built the garden as a shared space for the town.

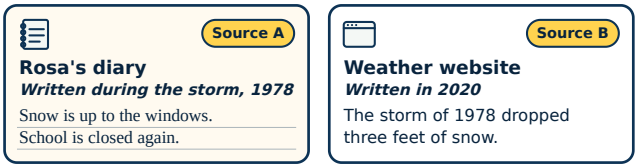
why neighbors built the garden
who wrote the history book
how the garden looks today
what was planned for opening day

8. The film was made 100 years after the station opened. What kind of source is it, and why?



secondary, because it is about trains
secondary, because it was made long after
primary, because it is a film
primary, because it shows the station

9. Rosa wrote, 'School is closed again.' What does the word again tell us?



School had closed before in that storm.
This was the first snow day.
Rosa liked school very much.
The snow had already melted.

10. What can Sam's letter tell us that the library book cannot?



what the flood was like for one family
how many towns the flood covered
why rivers flood in spring
what happened years after the flood

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 - Challenge Me

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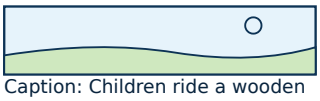
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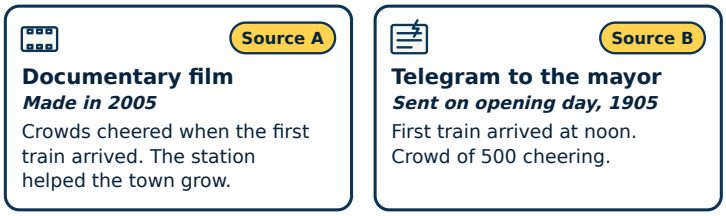
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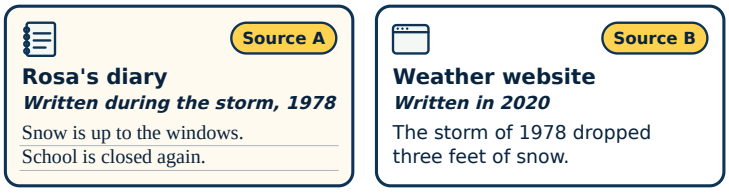
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