Primary and Secondary Sources

Grade 3 Social Studies Worksheet - Building Confidence

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

1. 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.

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

2. 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.

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

3. 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

4. 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 primary source a secondary source a textbook

5. 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.

6. Which source was written many years after the parade?

Source A

Town history textbook

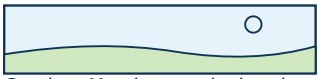
Written many years later

The parade became a yearly event after that first march.

Source B

Parade photograph

Taken on parade day



Caption: Marchers and a band fill Main Street.

a marcher's diary from parade day
the town history textbook
the parade photograph

7. The telegram was sent on the day the first train came. Who most likely sent it?

Source A

Telegram to the mayor

Sent on opening day, 1905

First train arrived at noon. Crowd of 500 cheering.

Source B

Documentary film

Made in 2005

Crowds cheered when the first train arrived. The station helped the town grow.

a writer 100 years later
someone at the station that day
a student in 2005

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

Source A

Magazine article

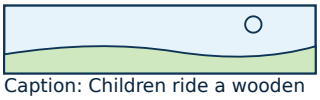
Written in 2012

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.

a fair map from 2020 | the magazine article | the fair photograph

9. 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.

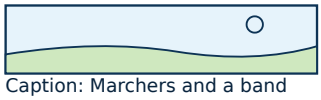
a letter from Ella's teacher in 1925
Ella's diary
the museum article

10. 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 town history textbook
the parade photograph
a website about the parade written later

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Social Studies Worksheet - Building Confidence

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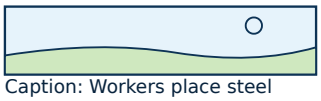
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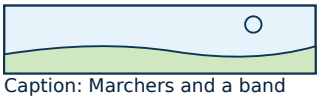
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Source B

Parade photograph

Taken on parade day



Caption: Marchers and a band fill Main Street.

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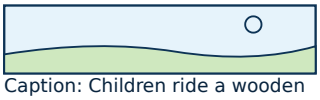
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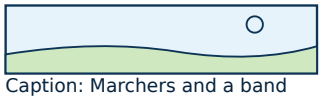
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