Primary and Secondary Sources

Grade 3 Social Studies Worksheet

PencilGo

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

1. 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.

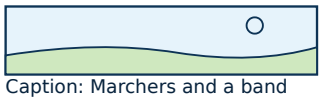
evidence from someone who was there
a summary of many records
a fact from a museum
a guess made years later

2. 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.

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

3. 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

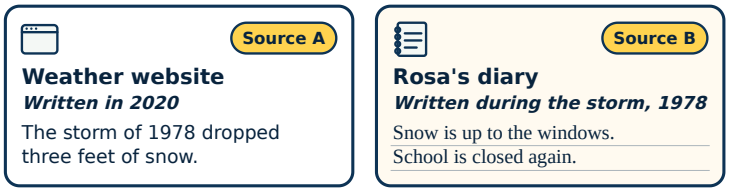
Library book about floods

Written in 2010

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

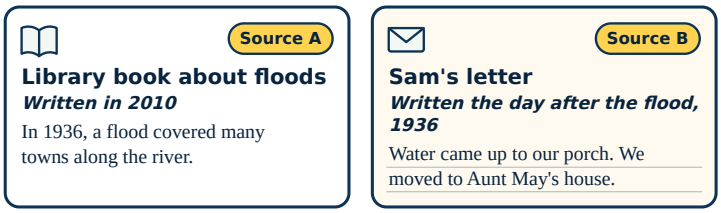
during the flood in 1936
the day after the flood
before the flood happened
in 2010, long after the flood

4. Which sentence comes from a primary source?



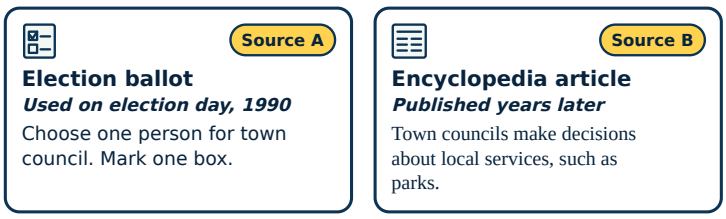
Snow is up to the windows.
The storm of 1978 dropped three feet of snow.
Storms like this happen every 50 years.
Schools closed for many days that winter.

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



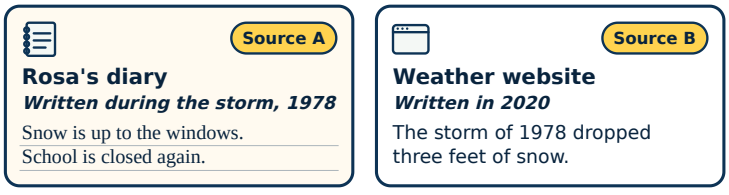
the library book about floods
Sam's letter
a 2020 website about the flood
a movie made last year about it

6. Why is the election ballot a primary source?



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

7. Which source was written long after the snowstorm?



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

8. 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.

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

9. 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.

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

10. 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 ticket from the first train
- the documentary film
- a photo from opening day
- the telegram to the mayor

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

Circle the answer.

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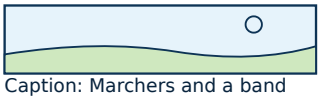
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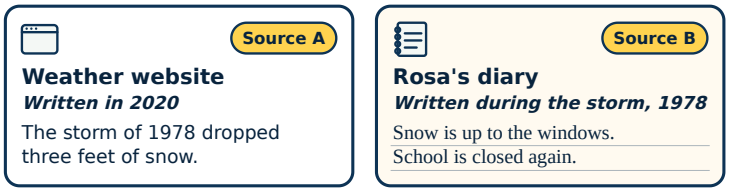
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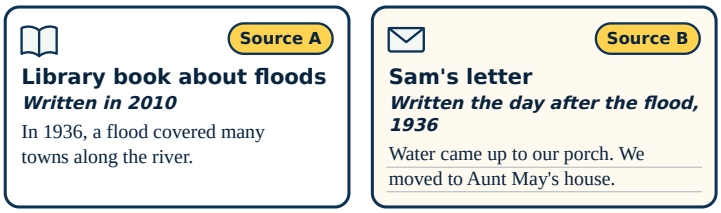
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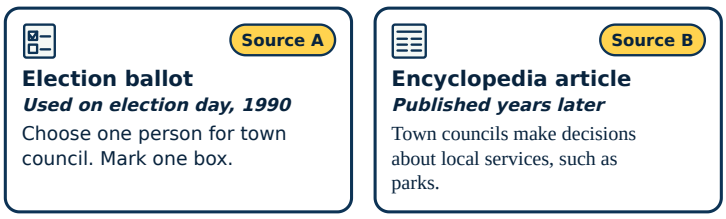
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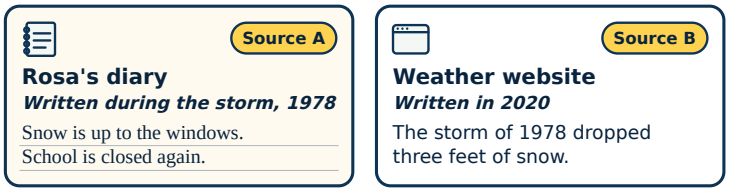
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