Primary and Secondary Sources

Grade 3 Social Studies Worksheet

PencilGo

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

1. Why is the election ballot a primary source?

Source A

Election ballot

Used on election day, 1990

Choose one person for town council. Mark one box.

Source B

Encyclopedia article

Published years later

Town councils make decisions about local services, such as parks.

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

2. Which source was written long after the snowstorm?

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.

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

3. 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.

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

4. 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
a 2019 newspaper story
a garden club website
the opening-day program

5. 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.

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

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

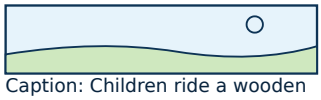
Source A
Cleanup report
Written after many cleanups
Several cleanups helped remove trash from local rivers.

Source B
Volunteer interview
Recorded during the cleanup
I carried three bags of trash from the riverbank today.

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

7. 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 was written 60 years after the fair.
It was printed on paper.
It has a title at the top.
It talks about the children.

8. 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.

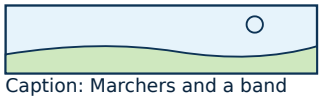
evidence from someone who was there
a guess made years later
a fact from a museum
a summary of many records

9. 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
because the photograph has no facts
because textbooks are never wrong
to see which source looks older

10. 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.

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

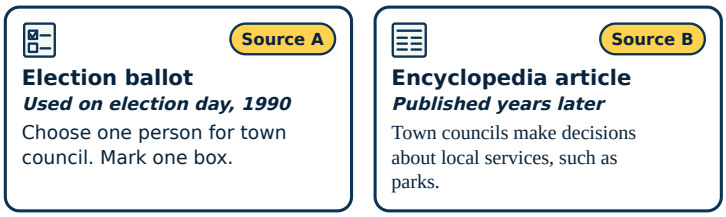
Scan to get this marked free. No screen time for your child.
Print it · do it in pencil · scan it · PencilGo picks the next sheet.

Primary and Secondary Sources

Answer Key - Grade 3 Social Studies Worksheet

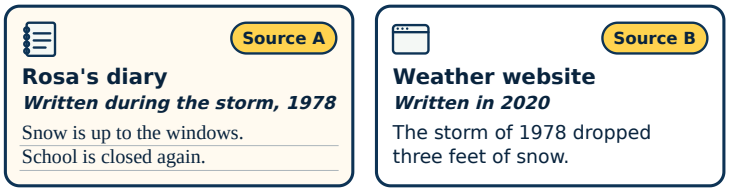
Circle the answer.

1. Why is the election ballot a primary source?



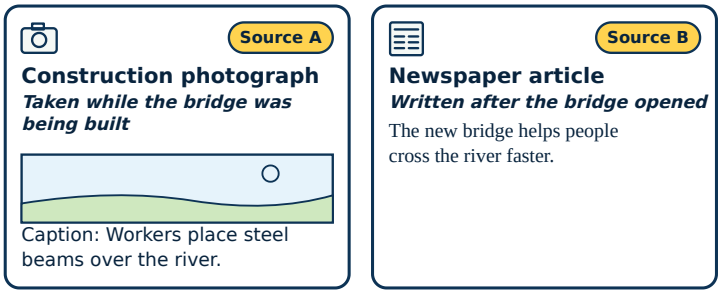
It tells about many elections.
Voters used it on election day.
It explains what councils do.
It was printed many years later.

2. Which source was written long after the snowstorm?



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

3. Which detail comes only from the construction photograph?



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

4. 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
a 2019 newspaper story
a garden club website
the opening-day program

5. 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.

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

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

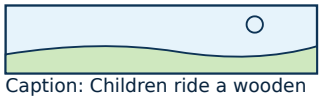
Source A
Cleanup report
Written after many cleanups
Several cleanups helped remove trash from local rivers.

Source B
Volunteer interview
Recorded during the cleanup
I carried three bags of trash from the riverbank today.

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

7. 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 was written 60 years after the fair.
It was printed on paper.
It has a title at the top.
It talks about the children.

8. 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 guess made years later

a fact from a museum

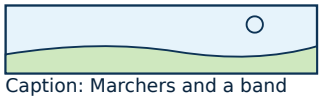
a summary of many records

9. 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

because the photograph has no facts

because textbooks are never wrong

to see which source looks older

10. 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.

the day after the flood

before the flood happened

during the flood in 1936

in 2010, long after the flood