Primary and Secondary Sources

Grade 3 Social Studies Worksheet - Challenge Me

PencilGo

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

1. Which source would best tell how many towns flooded in 1936?

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.

Sam's letter
a photo of Sam's porch
a diary from one farm
the library book about floods

2. What do the telegram and the film both say?

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.

The town grew for 100 years.
The first train arrived at noon.
Exactly 500 people came.
People cheered when the first train came.

3. 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.
Primary sources are written after secondary ones.
Secondary sources can be built from primary sources.

4. 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.

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

5. Which question could the fair photograph answer best?

Source A

Magazine article

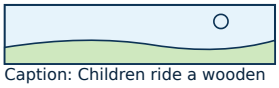
Written in 2012

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.

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

6. 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.
Diaries are never true.
Ella did not like the school.
It was written after 1950.

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

8. 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.

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

9. 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.

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

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

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.

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

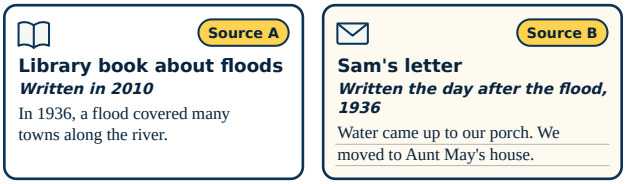
Scan to get this marked free. No screen time for your child.
Print it · do it in pencil · scan it · PencilGo picks the next sheet.

Primary and Secondary Sources

Answer Key - Grade 3 Social Studies Worksheet - Challenge Me

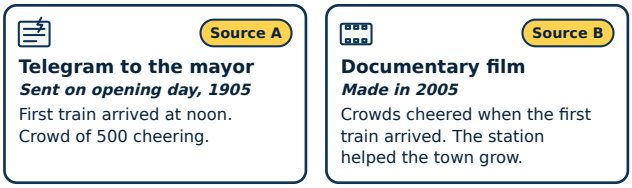
Circle the answer.

1. Which source would best tell how many towns flooded in 1936?



Sam's letter
a photo of Sam's porch
a diary from one farm
the library book about floods

2. What do the telegram and the film both say?



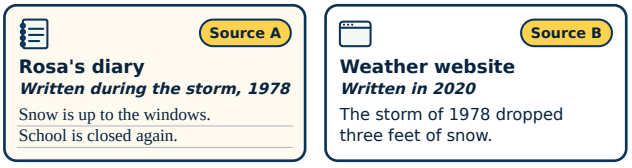
The town grew for 100 years.
The first train arrived at noon.
Exactly 500 people came.
People cheered when the first train came.

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



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

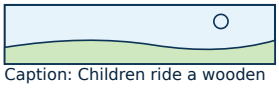
4. The website says three feet of snow fell. How could a historian check this?



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

5. 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.

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

6. 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.
Diaries are never true.
Ella did not like the school.
It was written after 1950.

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

8. 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.

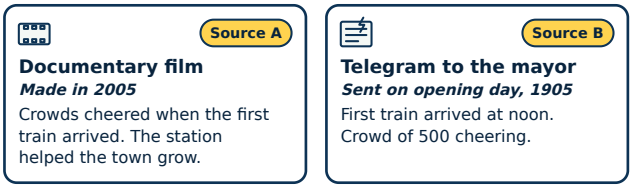
The ballot explains what councils do.
One shows the real vote; one explains councils.
Both were used on election day.
Both were written much later.

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



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

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



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