



SOURCE PRACTICE

Primary Source: anything created at the time of the event. This can also be a person that experiences the event first-hand.

Secondary Source: where the writer or creator is not an eyewitness or experienced the event. Explains or interprets the event or topic.

Test Yourself!

Write “P” for Primary or “S” for Secondary

1. A biography about Abraham Lincoln. _____
2. An interview with a Vietnam Veteran. _____
3. A journal article written about how Native people lived centuries ago. _____
4. The US Constitution. _____
5. A poster of the US Constitution. _____
6. An interview with someone who remembers when the Berlin Wall fell. _____
7. A textbook describing the Civil War. _____
8. The History Channel explaining life as a servant in the 19th century. _____
9. The movie *Titanic*. _____
10. A letter from John Smith about meeting with the Powhatan Indians. _____
11. A song written in 1919 about the Suffrage movement. _____
12. A diary found in 2016 written in 1918 by a factory worker. _____
13. A picture of the Apollo 11 Launch in 1969. _____
14. A book written about the Launch in 2008. _____
15. The birth certificate of Princess Diana. _____
16. A US newscast reporting on a flood in China last night. _____

Key:

1. S (Abe did not write it about himself, this explains and interprets his life.)
2. P (The veteran experienced the war. Even if the interview is decades later, the veteran's experiences are still true.)
3. S (Not from the time, and contains interpretations.)
4. P (A document from 1776.)
5. S (A copy, could have been edited. Always try to find the complete text or original form of the document/object. You don't have to physically touch the document/object to cite it, but you must be able to view the entire thing to fully understand its context.)
6. P (They do not have to be *at* the wall, but they were alive at the time of the event. That counts!)
7. S (Not from the time of the event, a textbook is meant to explain and interpret an event.)
8. S (Not from the time of the event, explaining what happened from an outsider's view.)
9. S (Not from the time of the event, a re-creation of the event.)
10. P (From the time of the event.)
11. P (From the time of the event.)
12. P (From the time of the event. Doesn't matter when it was found.)
13. P (From the time of the event.)
14. S (Not from the time of the event.)
15. P (From the time of the event, an original, official document.)
16. P (From the time of the event, does not have to be in the same location.)