



P/S Sources

Identifying Primary and Secondary Sources

Name: _____

Determine if the source would be a Primary Source (P) or a secondary source (S).

Remember

•A **Primary Source** is information that was created at the same time as an event or by a person directly involved in the event.

Diaries, speeches, letters, official records, autobiographies.

•A **Secondary Source** gets its information from somewhere else or by a person not directly involved in the event.

Encyclopedias, textbooks, book reports.

Answers

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____

- 1) A biography about Abraham Lincoln.
- 2) The declaration of independence.
- 3) A TV show explaining what happened in Vietnam.
- 4) A website describing what the first World's Fair was like.
- 5) A Vietnam veteran talking about the war in Vietnam.
- 6) Abraham Lincoln's diary describing what he thought about the civil war.
- 7) A letter from a soldier describing World War 2.
- 8) An actor describing what it was like on the set of a movie.
- 9) A history book describing Lewis and Clark's exploration of the Louisiana Purchase.
- 10) A friend describing the snowstorm he was in last year.
- 11) A journal written by Lewis about his exploration of the Louisiana Purchase.
- 12) A journal article written about how Indians lived.
- 13) A classmate giving a report about World War 2.
- 14) A newspaper article from 1941 describing the attack on Pearl Harbor.
- 15) An autobiography* about Bill Clinton.

*An autobiography is a biography (life story) written by the person its about.

Name _____

Evaluating Sources

1. Historical Question: Who was present at the signing of the Declaration of Independence?

Source 1: Hollywood movie about the American Revolution made 2001.

Source 2: Book written by a famous historian who is an expert on the American Revolution, published in 1999.

Which do you trust more? Why?

2. Historical Question: What was slavery like in South Carolina?

Source 1: Interview with former slave in 1936. The interviewer is a black man collecting oral histories for the Federal Writers' Project.

Source 2: Interview with former slave in 1936. The interviewer is a white woman collecting oral histories for the Federal Writers' Project.

Which do you trust more? Why?

3. Historical Question: What was the layout of the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz?

Source 1: Interview with 80 year-old Holocaust survivor in 1985.

Source 2: Map of concentration camp found in Nazi files.

Which do you trust more? Why?

4. **Historical Question:** Why were Japanese Americans put in internment camps during WWII?

Source 1: Government film explaining internment from 1942.

Source 2: Government report on Japanese Internment from 1983 based on declassified government documents.

Which do you trust more? Why?

5. **Historical Question:** Did American soldiers commit atrocities during the Vietnam War in 1969?

Source 1: Sworn testimony by American Sergeant in Congressional hearings in 1969.

Source 2: Speech by American General touring the United States in 1969.

Which do you trust more? Why?

6. **Historical Question:** What happened at the Battle of Little Bighorn?

Source 1: High school history textbook from 1985.

Source 2: Newspaper account from the day after the battle in June 1876.

Which do you trust more? Why?