Identifying Primary and Secondary Sources

**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.*

**Secondary Source** is information from somewhere else or by a person not directly involved in the event.
*Encyclopedias, textbooks, book reports.*

1) A play showing how Benjamin Franklin flew a kite during a lightning storm.

2) A short story describing Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla's 'electrical' battle.

3) Anne Frank's diary describing her life during World War 2.

4) A cartoon showing how Pocahontas met John Smith.

5) A textbook describing the civil rights movement.

6) A news report about the opening of a power plant.

7) A scientist explaining what it was like for Buzz Aldrin to walk on the moon.

8) A YouTube video describing how the pyramids were built.

9) An interview with Alexander Graham Bell about how he invented the telephone.

10) A radio broadcast from the day the Soviet Union launched Sputnik.

11) An autobiography about the 40th president, Ronald Reagan.

12) A book describing Christopher Columbus sailing to America.

13) A famous artist's painting of what cowboy life was probably like.

14) A journal by a cowboy about the cattle drives from Texas to Kansas.

15) The United States Constitution.

**Answers**

1. **P**
2. **S**
3. **P**
4. **S**
5. **P**
6. **P**
7. **P**
8. **S**
9. **S**
10. **P**
11. **P**
12. **S**
13. **S**
14. **P**
15. **P**
**Determining Primary and Secondary Sources**

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1) A journal written by Lewis about his exploration of the Louisiana Purchase.


3) A classmate giving a report about World War 2.

4) A letter from a soldier describing World War 2.

5) A Vietnam veteran talking about the war in Vietnam.


7) A biography about Abraham Lincoln.

8) Abraham Lincoln's diary describing what he thought about the civil war.

9) An actor describing what it was like on the set of a movie.

10) A journal article written about how Native Americans lived.

11) A website describing what the first World's Fair was like.

12) A newspaper article from 1941 describing the attack on Pearl Harbor.

13) An autobiography about Bill Clinton.

14) A friend describing the snowstorm he was in last year.

15) The declaration of independence.
Identifying Primary and Secondary Sources

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

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1) Rosa Parks describing her role in the Montgomery Alabama bus boycotts. __P__

2) A journal written by Sequoyah about how he created the Cherokee alphabet. __P__

3) A text book describing the civil war. __S__

4) Another student reading a report about the tanks from World War 1. __S__

5) An interview with a soldier about what it was like in Iraq. __P__

6) A friend telling you about his teacher last year. __P__

7) A movie showing the life of George Washington. __S__

8) A biography about the second president, John Adams. __S__

9) A Native American's journal describing what it was like to meet white settlers for the first time. __P__

10) A writer talking about their latest book. __S__

11) A webpage talking about how life may have been in ancient Greece. __S__

12) A radio recording of Walt Disney talking about Disney World. __P__

13) A newspaper article from 2001 describing the great depression in the 1930's. __S__

14) An autobiography about Rod Serling. __P__

15) Your parent describing how Pilgrims came to America. __S__
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**Answers**

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2) A letter from John Smith about his meeting with the Powhatan Indians.

3) A textbook describing the ‘the great war’.

4) A college professor describing how the pilgrims lived.

5) A reporter describing his time in Iraq.

6) A friend giving a report about the Industrial Revolution's changes to America.

7) The movie Titanic.

8) A biography about the sixteenth president, Abraham Lincoln.

9) A Native American writing about how his ancestors used to use all parts of the animals they hunted.

10) A documentary about how ‘Wizard of Oz’ changed movies forever.

11) A blog written by an employee describing what it is like working at Apple.

12) Neil Armstrong giving an interview about being the first man to walk on the moon.

13) A newspaper article describing last night's storm.

14) An autobiography about Bill Gates.

15) The History Channel' explaining how life was for a slave.

**Answers**

1. _______

2. _______

3. _______

4. _______

5. _______

6. _______

7. _______

8. _______

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