

Grades 6–8 Playlist: Social Studies and ELA Connection: Primary and Secondary Sources

Aligns with *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.9*:

- Analyze the relationship between a primary and secondary source on the same topic.

Welcome

When historians study the past, they often synthesize, or combine, information from multiple sources to draw conclusions and form arguments. The two main types of sources they use are called *primary* and *secondary* sources.

Objective

In this playlist, students will learn how to:

- analyze the presentation of information in a primary source and secondary source on the same topic.

Review

Key Terms

- A **primary source** is a firsthand account that was created at the time under study.
- A **secondary source** is an account or interpretation of events created after the time under study by someone without firsthand experience.
- **Bias** is a personal preference or prejudice someone holds for or against a thing or person.

Watch!

To review the differences between primary and secondary sources, watch this video:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMD4FE7a0pw>

Practice!

To review how to identify primary and secondary sources, complete this activity:

- http://www.quia.com/pop/46290.html?AP_rand=409113327



Exploring the Standard

The “story” of history is told through information gathered from primary and secondary sources. Historians analyze both primary and secondary sources on the same topic to place people and events in a broader context, draw conclusions about them, and evaluate the facts and significance of who did what and when. For example:

Topic	Primary Source	Secondary Source
Native American interactions with Europeans	A piece of Native American pottery created in 1689	A biography of Sacagawea
Slave life and culture	<i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave</i> by Frederick Douglass (1845)	A documentary film about the life of Frederick Douglass
Jewish life during the Holocaust	<i>The Diary of a Young Girl</i> by Anne Frank (1947)	A virtual walkthrough of the Anne Frank House

A Closer Look: Primary Sources

Primary sources are created by people who have firsthand experience. These people have witnessed or participated in history. Primary sources offer a personal and often subjective perspective of events, issues, societies, and places from the past. It is important to note that primary sources are not always reliable because a person’s experience and memory can distort facts and contain bias. However, they are excellent tools for gaining insight into the motives and responses of people in the past.

Primary sources are not just written documents. There are many different types of primary sources. Here are some common types and examples:

- Audio: interviews, oral histories, music, recorded speeches
- Documents: advertisements, diaries, laws, letters, newspapers, treaties, recipes, speeches
- Images: films, fine art, political cartoons, photographs, videos
- Objects: artifacts, clothing, inventions, pottery, tools, weapons
- Statistics (without interpretation): census data, weather records

