

What is the difference between a primary and secondary source?

Objective:

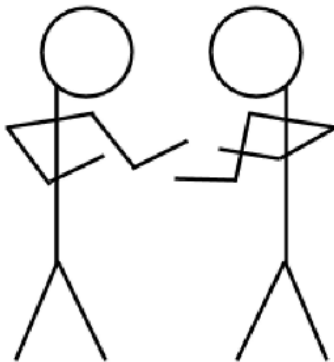
- **Identify** examples of primary sources.
- **Identify** examples of secondary sources.
- **Explain** the difference between a primary and secondary source.

Lunchroom Fight Introduction

→ Directions: Read the two sources below from the principal's investigation into the lunchroom fight, then answer the question that follows.



Compare



Max, one of two boys in the fight:
 "That kid is psycho. He turned around and punched me out of nowhere. Me and my friends were standing in line just joking around, and he turned around and punched me for no reason. He's messed up and creepy. Ask anyone."

Alicia, a girl in the same grade as Max and Justin. "My friend Malik said he was in the lunchroom when Max and Justin started fighting. He told me that some people moved away to give the boys space while some others ran to break it up. I don't really know either of them, but I bet Justin started it."

1. What are the differences between these two sources?

Max was there and experienced the fight. Alicia wasn't there, but heard about it from a friend who was.

2. What are the similarities between these two sources?

They both claim Justin started it. Both say it started in the lunchroom on the lunch line. Both claim Max + Justin were fighting.

Historians use two types of resources to write about the past:



Categorize

Primary Source	vs.	Secondary Source
<p>a document or physical object that <u>was written or created by someone during the time period</u> being studied</p> <p>Example: <i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i>, a diary written by a young Jewish girl who hid from the Nazis during the Holocaust.</p>		<p>a document created <u>after the time period</u> being studied using <u>primary sources</u> to write about it</p> <p>Example: An essay written in 2016 about the Neolithic Revolution that occurred in 10,000 B.C.E.</p>

→ Directions: Based on the definitions above, identify each of the documents below as either “primary” or “secondary” and explain why you identified it as that type of source.

1. A **journal entry** written by Christopher Columbus describing his voyage across the Atlantic Ocean.

2. A **biography** of Napoleon Bonaparte (died in 1821) written by a historian in 2013.

3. A **textbook** chapter about World War I (1914-1919), written in 1996.

4. A **photograph** of your grandfather on his first day of school.

Circle one:	Circle one:	Circle one:	Circle one:
Primary Source	Secondary Source	Primary Source	Secondary Source
Primary Source	Secondary Source	Primary Source	Secondary Source
Why? <i>Written by Columbus at the time.</i>	Why? <i>Written after Napoleon died by a historian after WWI.</i>	Why? <i>Written almost 8 decades after WWI.</i>	Why? <i>taken at time</i>

5. Winston Churchill’s **autobiography** about the first thirty years of his life which he wrote later in his life.

6. A **newspaper article** about the start of World War II, written the day after it started.

7. A **letter** from George Washington to Thomas Jefferson.

8. A **sword** that was made in 1317.

Circle one:	Circle one:	Circle one:	Circle one:
Primary Source	Secondary Source	Primary Source	Secondary Source
Primary Source	Secondary Source	Primary Source	Secondary Source
Why? <i>Churchill wrote it himself</i>	Why? <i>Written during WWII</i>	Why? <i>Washington wrote it during his life.</i>	Why? <i>Made in 1317.</i>



SQ 2: What sources do historians use to learn about the past?

→ Directions: Based on what you have learned, complete the task below.



Categorize

Part I

Explain the difference between a primary source and secondary source.

A primary source was created at the time by someone who was there, while a secondary source gets the information second hand.

Part II

→ Directions: Identify each of the sources above as either a primary source or a secondary source, then explain why you have categorized each source in that way.

Source	Primary Source or Secondary Source?	Why?
<p>Max, one of two boys in the fight: "That kid is psycho. He turned around and punched me out of nowhere. Me and my friends were standing in line just joking around, and he turned around and punched me for no reason. He's messed up and creepy. Ask anyone."</p>	<p>Primary Source</p>	<p>He was actually there.</p>
<p>Alicia, a girl in the same grade as Max and Justin: "My friend Malik said he was in the lunchroom when Max and Justin started fighting. He told me that some people moved away to give the boys space while some other ran to break it up. I don't really know either of them, but I bet Justin started it."</p>	<p>Secondary Source</p>	<p>She wasn't there, and heard second hand.</p>