

Worksheet for Identifying Primary and Secondary Sources

What is the definition of the term primary source?

What is the definition of the term secondary source?

Below is a list of sources of historical information. Circle the letter indicating whether the item is a "P", primary or "S", secondary source. If an item could be either primary or secondary, circle the "E". Be prepared to explain your choices!

SOURCE (P)PRIMARY (S)SECONDARY (E)EITHER

Business reports P S E

A photograph P S E

Newspaper reporter P S E

A song P S E

An elderly relative P S E

A poem P S E

A building P S E

A cartoon P S E

A letter P S E

Court records P S E

A diary P S E

A museum docent P S E

A census book P S E

A cemetery headstone P S E

A textbook P S E

A phone book P S E

A magazine article P S E

A city directory P S E

A video P S E

A map P S E