



PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SOURCES

What's the difference?



PRIMARY SOURCES

- A primary source is a **first-hand** account of information.
- Primary sources come **directly** from the historical topic that you are researching.
- Primary sources can be more difficult to find but are considered to be a more **believable** or **credible** source.

EXAMPLES OF PRIMARY SOURCES

- Artifacts (clothing, costumes, furniture)
- Interview with a person actually involved with the historical event
- **Autobiographies/memoirs**
- Diary
- **Personal letters**
- Magazines*
- Newspapers*
- Actual photographs
- Audio recordings
- Video recordings
- **Speeches**
- Scrapbooks
- Oral histories
- **Original paintings**

SECONDARY SOURCES

- A secondary source is **second-hand** information.
- A Secondary source is information that is **interpreted by someone else**.
- Secondary sources are easier to find, but are not considered as valuable as primary sources.
- All secondary sources **originate** from a primary source(s).

EXAMPLES OF SECONDARY SOURCES

- Textbook
- Encyclopedias
- **Biographies**
- Internet
- General reference books
- **Reenactments**
- Book, art, or theater reviews
- Magazines*
- Newspapers*