

Primary Sources

Secondary Sources/ Other Informational Sources

Fiction

What is a primary source?

Primary sources are created at
the time of the event.

How do primary sources help us understand history?

They are evidence of what happened in the past.

Problems with using primary sources:

- May only tell one point of view
- Difficult to read/
understand

What are secondary sources and other informational sources?

Secondary sources are created by historians after the time of the event. Historians analyze multiple sources using evidence from primary sources. **Other types of informational sources** are created by authors using primary sources and secondary sources to inform people about historical events or people.

How do secondary sources and other informational sources help us understand history?

Historians and other authors help us make sense of the primary sources. They give us an account or interpretation that uses evidence from primary sources.

Problems with using secondary sources or informational sources:

- May be difficult to understand
- May not tell all points of view
- They are an author's interpretation

What is fiction?

A story. It may be based on real events but it is not real.

How does fiction help us understand history?

- Helps us understand what life was like (we can put ourselves in the past/ in the characters shoes)
- Help us feel empathy
- Interesting
- Pick up details about history

Problems with using fiction:

- An author doesn't need to follow the same rules of evidence as an historian.
- May only be partially truth or may not be accurate.

Examples:

- Newspaper
- Map
- Press Release
- Memorandum
- Advertisement
- Congressional Record
- Census Report
- Letter
- Telegram
- Report
- Patent
- Other

Examples:

- Books and articles written by historians (Secondary sources)
- Textbooks
- Non-fiction historical texts
- Encyclopedia
- Internet sites

Examples:

- *Encounter* by Jane Yolen
- *Rainbow Bridge* by Audrey Wood
- *Rosa* by Nikki Giovanni & Bryan Collier