



## Sort The Sources

**Directions:** Read the list of examples below. Each item represents a type of source that might be used in research. Decide if the example is a **Primary Source (P)**, an original, firsthand account or record, or a **Secondary Source (S)**, a retelling, interpretation, or analysis of a primary source. Write **P** or **S** beside each item.

Historians often rely on both primary and secondary sources to better understand the past. For instance, a diary written during a war may provide direct details about the writer's experience, while a textbook about that war offers a broader interpretation. Researchers must learn how to sort these types of sources because each provides a different perspective. Primary sources give us raw, unfiltered access to events, while secondary sources help us see patterns, themes, and lessons drawn from many primary accounts. Knowing the difference helps us judge the reliability of information and strengthens our critical thinking skills. Both are valuable—but they are not the same.

1. A soldier's letter from World War I
2. A documentary about the construction of the pyramids
3. The U.S. Constitution written in 1787
4. A biography of Nelson Mandela
5. A newspaper published the day after the moon landing
6. An encyclopedia entry on the Great Depression
7. A recording of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech
8. A student's research paper on ancient Rome
9. A photograph of the first automobile ever built
10. A modern podcast episode analyzing Shakespeare's plays
11. An eyewitness account of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake
12. A magazine article reviewing a newly released film
13. A scientist's original lab notes from an experiment
14. A museum plaque explaining artifacts from Ancient Greece
15. A census record from 1900