

Cause And Effect Sources Answer Key

1. **Alex used a Primary Source (P)** - the original letter from 1773.
 - **Effect:** It gave him a vivid, emotional, and firsthand sense of the event, helping him imagine what it was like to be there.
2. **Maya used a Secondary Source (S)** - the modern history book.
 - **Effect:** It gave her a broad, analytical view, helping her understand the larger causes and consequences of the event in history.
3. **Combining both** provides a fuller picture: Alex's primary source adds **personal detail and perspective**, while Maya's secondary source adds **context and meaning**. Together, they show both the human side and the big-picture significance.
4. **Sample responses (students' own words will vary):**
 - **Advantage of Primary:** Offers firsthand details and authentic voices from the time.
 - **Advantage of Secondary:** Organizes information and connects events to larger themes or causes.

Teacher's Notes:

- This activity highlights **cause-and-effect reasoning**, pushing students beyond labeling sources.
- Encourage them to see how conclusions **change depending on the source used**.
- Extension idea: Have students research the same event (e.g., a school sports game) by interviewing someone who was there (**primary**) and reading a recap article (**secondary**). Then compare the effects of each source on their understanding.