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Titanic Source Sleuth

Directions: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the comprehension questions that follow. For each question, decide whether the source described is **Primary** or **Secondary** and explain your reasoning.

For her school history fair, Jasmine wanted to study the sinking of the Titanic in 1912. At the local library, she found a diary written by a passenger who survived the disaster. The diary described panic on the lifeboats and the chilling sounds of the ship as it sank. Jasmine also discovered a modern documentary that pieced together evidence from historians, engineers, and oceanographers. The documentary used computer animations to explain how the iceberg caused the ship's metal to rip open.

To add more details, Jasmine borrowed a history textbook that placed the Titanic in the broader context of early 20th-century travel and technology. She also browsed an online archive of photographs taken in 1912, showing passengers on deck before the tragedy. Finally, Jasmine read a magazine article from last year that compared the Titanic to modern cruise ships, highlighting safety measures that prevent similar accidents today.

- 1. Was the diary written by a passenger a primary or secondary source? Why?
- 2. Was the **documentary explaining the iceberg damage** a primary or secondary source? Why?
- 3. Was the history textbook a primary or secondary source? Why?
- 4. Were the **photographs from 1912** primary or secondary sources? Why?
- 5. Was the **magazine article from last year** a primary or secondary source? Why?

