

Titanic Source Sleuth Answer Key

1. **Primary** - The diary is a firsthand account written by someone who directly experienced the Titanic disaster.
2. **Secondary** - The documentary interprets and explains past events using evidence collected later.
3. **Secondary** - Textbooks summarize and interpret information for students, not firsthand records.
4. **Primary** - Photographs from 1912 provide original visual evidence taken at the time of the event.
5. **Secondary** - The modern magazine article compares the Titanic with present-day ships, interpreting history rather than directly recording it.

Teacher's Notes:

- Encourage students to use the “**created at the time of the event by someone directly involved = Primary**” rule as a guide.
- Reinforce that **modern interpretations**, even if accurate, are always **Secondary** because they were created after the fact.
- This activity goes beyond labeling; students must **explain why** they chose Primary or Secondary, building critical thinking skills.
- Extension: Have students find one real-world example of a primary source and one secondary source at home (e.g., a family photo vs. a biography) and explain the difference.