

Fact Or Interpretation Answer Key

1. **P - Fact:** Soldier's diary = firsthand account.
2. **S - Interpretation:** Explains what the diary entry means.
3. **S - Interpretation:** Historian's explanation adds context.
4. **P - Fact:** Soldier's 1863 letter = firsthand description.
5. **S - Interpretation:** Modern books analyzing letters = secondary.
6. **S - Interpretation:** Author's argument about bravery and fear.
7. **P - Fact:** Newspaper article printed the day after = original record.
8. **S - Interpretation:** Modern magazine analyzing accuracy of reports.

Teacher's Notes:

- Reinforce that **facts are direct records** from the time of the event, while **interpretations are later explanations or meanings drawn from those facts**.
- Highlight that sometimes a primary source contains personal perspective (like fear or emotion), but it is still a **fact** because it is firsthand evidence.
- Encourage students to see how **historians build on facts to create interpretations**. Both are valuable, but they serve different purposes.
- Extension: Have students write their own "mini passage" with one fact (primary) and one interpretation (secondary) about a school or local event.