Name



Exit Slip: Significance of Sources

Directions: Read the passage below. Then complete the reflection question at the end of the worksheet. Your answer should show your understanding of why it matters to know the difference between primary and secondary sources.

In preparing her project on World War II, Lila examined a variety of materials. She read her great-grandfather's wartime letters, which described the fear of night raids and the relief of surviving each day. She also looked at photographs taken by soldiers that showed bombed-out cities and makeshift shelters. To connect these personal experiences to the larger story, Lila read a history book that explained the war's causes and global consequences. She also watched a documentary that analyzed how propaganda influenced the public's emotions during wartime.

By combining both primary and secondary sources, Lila noticed the difference in what each type offered. The letters and photos gave her raw, emotional evidence from people who lived through the war. The textbook and documentary, however, gave her interpretation and explanation, helping her understand broader patterns. Lila realized that historians need both to form accurate, well-rounded conclusions.

In your own words, explain why it is important to distinguish between primary and secondary sources when studying history or creating a research project.

