

Name _____

Exit Slip: Significance of Sources Answer Key

Sample Strong Responses (student wording will vary):

- It is important to distinguish because **primary sources provide firsthand evidence** and show what people saw, felt, or experienced directly.
- **Secondary sources provide explanations and context**, helping us understand how individual facts fit into a larger picture.
- Knowing the difference prevents confusion, because **mixing them up could lead to weak or biased conclusions**.
- Researchers use both together to create a **balanced understanding** of the past.

Teacher's Notes:

- This activity is designed as an **exit slip** for reflection, encouraging personal articulation rather than just labeling.
- Look for answers that mention at least one clear distinction (firsthand vs. interpretation) and one reason why it matters.
- Extension idea: Have students give an example from their own life; what could be a "primary source" of their day (e.g., a selfie, a journal entry) and what could be a "secondary source" (e.g., a friend retelling their story).