Day 61: Primary and Secondary Sources

Four sources

Source	Who made it	When
A diary of a farmer	The farmer	1850, the year he wrote about
A school textbook about farms long ago	A writer today	2022
A photograph of a parade	A photographer at the parade	The day of the parade, 1955
An encyclopedia article about parades	A writer who studied old records	2019

1. Name the two sources in the table that were made at the time by someone who was there.
Answer 1

2. Is the encyclopedia article a primary or a secondary source?
Answer 2

3. A book written this year tells about Alabama in 1819. Explain why it is a secondary source.
Answer 3

Day 62: Reading a Photograph and a Letter

A practice letter (written for this lesson, not a real historical letter)

May 2, 1950. Dear Aunt Ruth, Today our town opened its new library. I was there when the mayor cut the ribbon, and I checked out two books about birds. Mr. Lee next door told me that the old library burned down many years ago, before I was born. Love, June

1. Who wrote the practice letter, and when?

Answer 1

2. Write one thing June saw for herself.

Answer 2

3. June wrote that the old library burned down. Explain whether that part of her letter is firsthand or secondhand.

Answer 3

Day 63: Alabama Events on a Timeline

Alabama timeline

Year	Event
1819	Alabama becomes the 22nd state
1871	Birmingham is founded
1955	Rosa Parks is arrested in Montgomery
1965	Marchers walk from Selma to Montgomery for voting rights

1. Which event in the timeline happened first?
Answer 1

2. How many years passed between Rosa Parks' arrest and the Selma to Montgomery march? Is that less than, equal to, or greater than one decade?
Answer 2

3. Explain why putting events on a timeline helps you understand history.
Answer 3

Day 64: The Montgomery Bus Boycott Through Sources

Sources about the boycott

Source	Who made it	When
Police report on Rosa Parks' arrest	Montgomery police	December 1, 1955
Fingerprint card of Rosa Parks	Montgomery police	December 1, 1955
A children's book about the boycott	An author who was not there	Many years later

1. Which two sources in the table were made on the day of the arrest?
Answer 1

2. How many days did the boycott last?
Answer 2

3. Grandpa tells a story about the boycott that his father told him. Explain whether Grandpa's story is a firsthand or a secondhand account of the boycott.
Answer 3

Hands-on task: Interview an older family member

Question	Answer
Who I interviewed	_____
The event	_____
When it happened	_____
What they saw or heard	_____

One firsthand detail from my interview was:

Day 65: Independent Check: Events and Sources

Three sources about Alabama

Source	Who made it	When
A photograph of the Selma to Montgomery march	A photographer walking with the marchers	March 1965
A history book about Alabama	A writer today	2021
A letter from a soldier home in Alabama	The soldier	1918

Answer on your own. An adult may read the questions aloud but should not give the answers.

1. Which source was made most recently?

Answer 1

2. How many decades are there from 1965 to 2015?

Answer 2

3. Choose one source from the table. Explain whether it is primary or secondary, and why.

Answer 3

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