

Primary Source Assignment

Date assignment is due:
Friday Sept. 20

Historians use evidence from primary and secondary sources for information about our past. A **primary source** of evidence is information about the people or events recorded or made at around the time they actually occurred. Primary sources are **human-made**, first-hand pieces of evidence from people who were there or experienced the events as they happened. The people wrote about the events or made things with pictures on them, showing what the time period was like. Examples of primary sources of historical information would include diaries, letters, newspapers, maps, photographs, documents, tools, coins, and artwork such as decorated pottery.

(Secondary sources of evidence are information about people or events recorded *long after* the original time of the people or events. Examples would include biographies, encyclopedias, the internet, and even our history books! We will NOT be representing these for this assignment.)

Your task:

1. Choose a real event in history that you are already familiar with or can find information on. (Try looking through our social studies textbook for ideas or information)
2. Find some information about the event through sources like the internet.
3. Decide how you will represent a **primary source** for your chosen historical event. For example, if you chose a historic battle, you might recreate a "letter" from an imaginary soldier writing home to his family describing all that he has seen or experienced in the battle. Or you could choose to recreate a section of a "newspaper" with an article detailing a historical event from the past (if they had newspapers then). You might draw a picture of pottery showing scenes from an ancient culture's daily life.

~ Your assignment should include true historical facts, be detailed, and be colored appropriately. Do NOT use notebook paper to make your project. ~

You must include the following information on the back side of your "primary source" of information: (Write in complete sentences.)

1. **Your full name & social studies period**
2. **In your own words, define what a primary source of evidence is.**
3. **Name the primary source** you tried to make. (What it is you made a copy of?)
4. What **time period or historical event** does it represent?
5. What **historical information** (facts) can we learn about this event or time from the primary source you chose to represent? (What can we actually learn or observe directly from the primary source itself?)
6. What **other information** can be gained from the source? **Explain.**
(For example: What might the artifact suggest about the people of that time and place? Does it give clues about what they valued or thought was important, what they thought or believed in, how they lived, what they could do, or what they knew?)