Name:

Date:

Primary and Secondary Sources

Primary Sources: materials that were created at the time the event occurred or materials created by those who experienced the event. These materials include letters, speeches, diary entries, newspaper articles from the time period, interviews with people who were around when the event occurred, documents, photographs, and artifacts such as tools, weapons, and clothing from the time period.

Secondary Sources: materials that were created after the event. These materials might tell you about an event, person, time, or place, but they were created by someone not from the time period. Secondary sources can include history books, school textbooks, encyclopedias, magazines, websites, and documentaries.

Test Your Knowledge! Are these primary or secondary sources? Circle the correct answer.

1. A biography of Theodore Roosevelt written in 2001.			
	a. Primary	b.	Secondary
2.	Photographs of Civil War soldiers in their ca a. Primary	•	Secondary
3.	Letters written by Abraham Lincoln. a. Primary	b.	Secondary
4.	A documentary on PBS about World War II. a. Primary	b.	Secondary
5.	A newspaper article from 1912 about the sin a. Primary	king b.	of the Titanic. Secondary
6.	A speech given by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. a. Primary		Secondary
7.	A magazine article about the War of 1812. a. Primary	b.	Secondary
8.	Benjamin Franklin's autobiography a. Primary	b.	Secondary