

## **Primary versus Secondary Sources**

**Learning Outcomes/Objectives:** When given 5 sources, students will be able to correctly sort the sources into the correct category (primary and secondary) and give one written reason why.

**Content (Subject) Areas:** English/Language Arts, Social Studies

**Illinois Learning Standards:**

*CC.6-8.RH.2* Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.

**Grade Level/Learner Population/Grouping Arrangement:** 8<sup>th</sup> grade/regular education/whole group then individual

**Time:** 45-minute lesson

**Environment:** Library

**Materials:** 30 printouts of 5 sources, slides depicting the examples used for teaching

**Resources:** nonfiction books, computers, overhead projector and screen

**Instructional Roles:** The teacher librarian will be leading the lessons and activities.

**Activity and Procedures for completion:** This will be an introductory lesson of what is a primary and secondary source. The students will be introduced to the types of sources that are available both online and in print. They will be provided examples of various sources that fall into either category. They will then be given a selection of sources to separate into the correct category of primary and secondary. At the end of the lesson, they will be able to define what is a primary and secondary source.

**Introduction/Overview:**

Hey everyone! Today we are going to work on primary and secondary sources for your Civil Rights projects. Can someone tell me what a primary source is? Expected response: first person account, from the person who was there. Those are good answers! And what is a secondary source? Expected response: about a topic but not by someone who was there. Thank you for your answers. So today we are going to see primary and secondary sources and note which type of source they are. A primary source is a first-hand account of a topic by someone who was there and had a direct connection to it. A secondary source is one step removed from a primary source, meaning they may quote or use a primary source but there is a layer of interpretation or analysis.

**Direct instruction (demonstration/lecture/inquiry):**

For our first example I'm looking at a photograph of a Civil Rights demonstration. This is the digital copy from the original photo that was taken in 1962 in San Francisco. I believe that this is a primary source because it is a photo taken during the correct time period depicting the event. What do you think? Expected response: primary, secondary. What are your reasons? Expected response: taken at correct time, it's a photo not a person's account. Now, if we once again look at our definition of primary and secondary sources, we can see that photographs fall under primary sources. So, this would be a primary source you could use for your research. What about this book titled *Critical Insights: Civil Rights Literature, Past & Present*? It has essays written by various authors and quotes from people who experienced the Civil Rights movement. Because of this I am going to believe it is a secondary source. What do you think it is and why? Expected response: primary, secondary, has first person accounts, it is about the topic but not by people who were there. Again, let's look at our chart, it is about the topic but involves the interpretation or analysis of it rather than only a direct account of it.

### **Modeling and guided practice:**

Now I am going to show you two more examples of primary and secondary sources. What do you notice with this source? Expected response: it's a picture book. Is this a primary or secondary source and why? Expected response: secondary because it's spoken word about the events that happened, quotes people who were there but the author wasn't. This is a fictional story but it is based on the events that happened and uses primary sources to explain what happened at the time. Now what about this source? Is it primary or secondary and why? Expected response: primary, it's MLK's words written down. Once again you have all used your observations to help you decide whether this source was primary or secondary. This book is primary because it is MLK's word from his I Have a dream speech and his Letters from a Birmingham Jail written down into a book. You are all doing an excellent job using the context clues available to you to decide whether a source is primary and secondary.

### **Independent practice:**

Now I want you to go to a computer and research what these 5 sources fall under. Once you make your observations based off of your research, I want you to write down your reasoning as to why that source is primary and secondary. You need to have one reason why you assigned primary or secondary to each source.

Give them time to sort, going around to check in with students and using the Tracker Chart. How are you doing? Expected responses: good, confused, shrug. Can you share with me what you are doing? Expected responses: I'm putting the sources into primary and secondary. Why did you put those sources in those sections? Expected responses: primary because of it was by the person there, secondary because of the source is analyzing what happened. Those are good observations and reasons.

### **Sharing, reflecting, and self-questioning:**

Turn to your neighbor and compare what you both did. Are they the same or different? I want you to explain to each other your reason for why you stated a source was primary or secondary,

even if you put them in the same category, I want you to share your reason because your reasons may be different from each other.

**Closure:**

You all have done such a fantastic job today learning the difference between primary and secondary sources. What does it mean if it is a primary source? Expected response: first person account, someone had direct connection with the topic. Excellent, primary sources are immediate, first-hand accounts of a topic, from people who had a direct connection with it. What does secondary source mean? Expected response: not a first-person account, an analysis of the topic. Excellent, secondary sources are one step removed from primary sources, though they often quote or otherwise use primary sources. They can cover the same topic, but they add a layer of interpretation and analysis. Next time I see you we are going to learn more about primary and secondary sources and how to correctly cite and quote them to avoid plagiarism.

**Differentiation:** For students who correctly completed the task on primary and secondary sources, they will need to search for four sources that they will use for their project. They will then provide one reason as to whether it is a primary or secondary source and how it applies to their assignment. For students who need differentiated learning, they will be assisted in searching for the provided sources in a small group setting.

**Modification:** Students will need to only explain their reasoning for the sources.

**Assessment:** The students will be evaluated based off of their personal activity page where they had to research and add their reasoning as to why they stated a source was primary or secondary.

**Evaluation:**

To evaluate, I will have a rubric that will state whether the student put the sources in the correct category and whether they were able to provide an explanation of their reasoning.

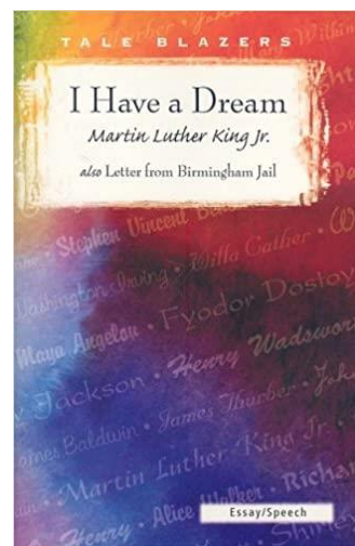
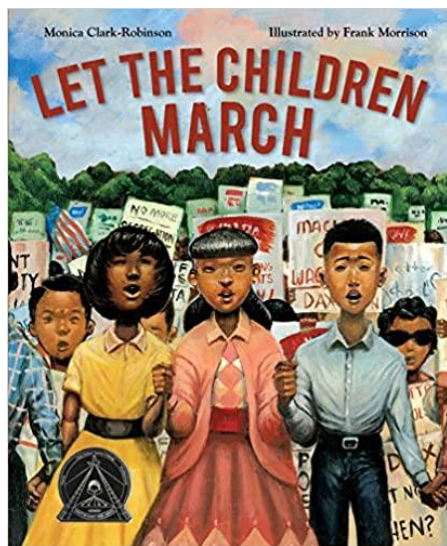
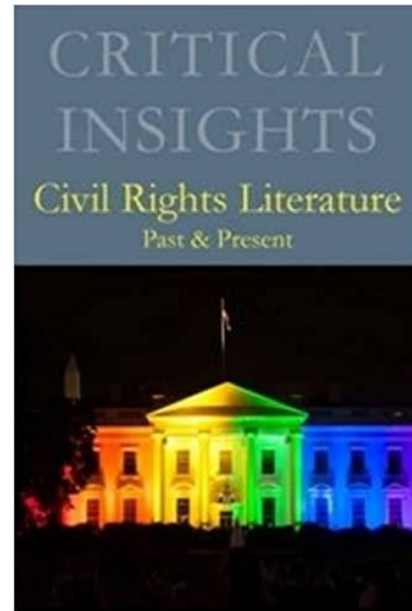
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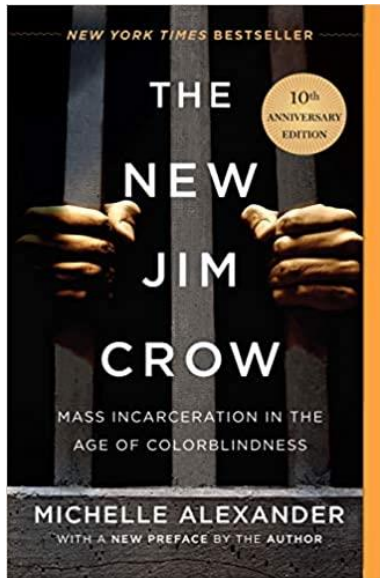
Name	Sorted Primary/Secondary	Gave written explanation
Robbie	4 out of 5	/
Joshua	5 out of 5	+

Key:

- + gave correct reasons
- / gave adequate reasons
- gave unsatisfactory reasons

**Extension/Follow-up:** This lesson will be extended following its completion by continuing to build upon the beginning differences of primary and secondary sources to then how to cite and quote those sources accurately.





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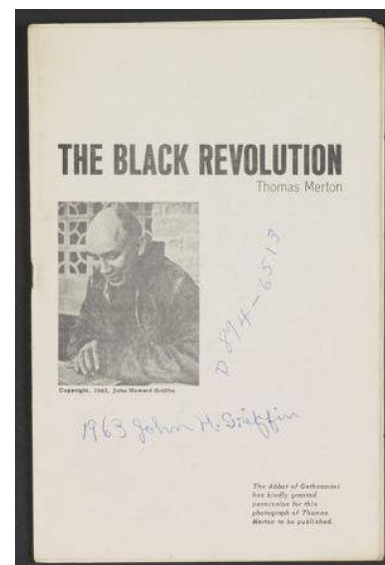
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