

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Primary vs. Secondary Sources

Today we're going to talk about primary and secondary sources...in just a minute.

What do you already know about primary and secondary sources?

When you want to learn more about a person, event, or time period, you might conduct research by looking for sources of information. Most sources can be categorized as primary or secondary.

A primary source is original, first-hand information that was created by someone who actually witnessed the event they are talking about. They are often made at the time the event occurred, but not always. Memoirs, interviews, letters, emails, blog posts, Tweets, and photographs are all examples of primary sources.

A secondary source gives information that someone has gathered and shaped through their own research, but not their personal experience. Secondary sources often give a summary or analysis of multiple primary sources. Examples of secondary sources include textbooks, encyclopedias, biographies, and documentary films. They are created some time after the events they describe.

How do you think the information in a primary source differs from the information in a secondary source?

And when would you use one or the other?