

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# What Is History? - Answer Key

Read each question and circle the correct answer.

1. What is another term for a document created at the time of or by a person who was present at a historical event?

- A. primary source  
B. fictional account  
C. secondary source  
D. unreliable resource

2. Read the following excerpt from *The Great Rogue: A Biography of Captain John Smith* by Paul Lewis.

*[Pocahontas] first steps onto the stage in 1617, a few months after she and her husband, John Rolfe, arrived in England. A charming, attractive, and exceptionally intelligent young woman, she created a sensation everywhere she went. Not only was she the daughter of a king and the first [Native American] woman ever to visit the British Isles, but as a convert to Christianity, she aroused interest in circles that would otherwise have ignored her.*

How could you use the above source in your research?

- A. as a primary source that gives Pocahontas's perspective  
B. as a primary source that recounts Pocahontas's visit from the British perspective  
C.  as a secondary source that gives background on Pocahontas's visit to England  
D. as a secondary source that offers a theory that Pocahontas was not famous during her lifetime

3. Referring to the excerpt from *The Great Rogue: A Biography of Captain John Smith*, which of the following is a theory that Paul Lewis has come up with about Pocahontas?

- A. She was married to John Rolfe.  
B. She arrived in England in 1617.  
C. She was the first Native American woman to visit England.  
D.  Many people would probably have ignored her if she wasn't a Christian.

4. Which of the following is true of Sam Drowne's and Thomas Preston's accounts of March 5, 1770?

- A. They agree on all the details.
- B. Preston says no one was shot that day. Drowne disagrees.
- C. They agree the British soldiers shot colonists, but disagree about why they fired.
- D. They disagree on some details but both say Preston ordered British soldiers to shoot.

5. What is one reason why Thomas Preston's account might not be reliable?

- A. Preston was known to exaggerate.
- B. Preston was in jail and trying to clear his name.
- C. Preston had been in a previous fight with colonists.
- D. Preston had a personal conflict with Samuel Drowne.

6. Read the following excerpt from a letter by jailed Freedom Rider John Moody, Jr.

May 27, 1961

Dear Mother & Dad:

*I suppose you've been reading the papers and you know what I am doing in Jackson, Mississippi. The trial was yesterday. Our lawyers were beautiful in their every word and action...The lawyers tried to prove that the Mississippi national guard had us under arrest from the time we passed the Alabama border.*

...

*The treatment down here has been so humane that we are suspicious of their every move. We have finally decided that these people are so conscious of the negative reputation that the word "Mississippi" carries, that they want to do something to change that. They know that our message will reach the corners of the earth and they know that it is they, not us, who are on trial. They just don't know that they cannot win...*

Based on the passage, what kind of source does it represent?

- A. primary source
- B. secondary source

7. Referring to the excerpt from a letter by jailed Freedom Rider, who is the letter's audience?

- A. the author's parents
- B. other Freedom Riders
- C. the people of Mississippi
- D. the Freedom Riders' lawyers

8. Providing context for an event involves

- A. recounting it in your research without explaining it.
- B. explaining how the event would affect events in the future.
- C. finding out exactly what happened at the moment in question.
- D. giving background information about what else was happening at the time.

9. The lyric “Historians research more than just the word of one / To learn all sides of history” most closely means that

- A. historians are satisfied after looking at one source.
- B. only one historian is needed to research any given event.
- C. historians use multiple accounts to get the fullest picture of events.
- D. historians think that if two people have the same observations, they must be true.

10. Which of the following examples illustrates how the past helps us make sense of the present or future?

- A. Josephine loves studying the Civil War because it is the only war America officially fought against itself.
- B. Marcus studies ancient humans because he’s interested in how humans built tools without technology.
- C. Sullivan is taking a trip to India, but he says he doesn’t need to study the history and culture of the region in order to understand it.
- D. Carolina researches zoning laws and immigration history, which helps her better understand why her neighborhood is mostly Puerto Rican.