Primary & Secondary Sources (Video)

Check your knowledge about this topic by answering these questions.

Some questions have more than one correct answer.

1. Which of the following is NOT true of primary sources?

12 points

* Primary sources are first-hand accounts or individual representations.
* Primary sources are created by those who have directly witnessed what they are describing.
* Primary sources are always published.
* Primary sources are original documents and usually do not describe or analyze other documents.

2. Which of the following is NOT an example of a primary source?

12 points

* Newsreel footage of World War II
* Michelangelo's sculpture David
* A documentary about the Civil War
* Population data and figures

3. When should someone use primary sources?

16 points

* To read eyewitness accounts or view photographs or video of an event instead of relying on a summarized explanation
* To interpret data yourself instead of relying on someone else's interpretation
* To reflect on and analyze works of literature or art yourself instead of relying on someone else's opinion
* To verify claims made in secondary sources

4. What is a secondary source? Choose the best answer.

12 points

* A subscription database
* A document that interprets or analyzes primary sources
* A journal or diary from the Battle of Gettysburg
* A sequel

5. Which of the following is NOT an example of a secondary source?

12 points

* Textbooks and encyclopedias
* An article analyzing Queen Elizabeth I's speech
* Field data collected by an environmental organization
* A book that discusses population trends over time

6. When should someone use secondary sources?

12 points

* To see what has been reported about a topic or event
* To learn from an expert's analysis, opinion, or interpretation of an issue or work
* To gather background information on a subject
* To read eyewitness accounts or view photographs or videos of an event

7. Which of the following is an example of a primary source?

12 points

* The novel To Kill A Mockingbird
* An article analyzing race relations in To Kill A Mockingbird
* A video of a panel of experts discussing To Kill a Mockingbird's relevancy today
* A review of the movie version of To Kill a Mockingbird

8. Which of the following are examples of a secondary source?

12 points

* A Civil War soldier's journal
* A documentary about soldiers’ experiences in the Civil War
* Confederate flag from the Civil War's Battle of Gettysburg on exhibit in a museum
* An article in The Journal of American History comparing the resources of the North and South sides during the Civil War