

Primary Source:

A primary source is a document or an actual object which was written or created during the period being studied. These sources existed during an experience or time period and give an inside view of a specific event. Some examples of primary sources are:

- Original documents: Diaries, speeches, manuscripts, letters, interviews, news film footage, autobiographies, official records
- Creative works: Poetry, drama, music, art
- Relics or artefacts: Pottery, furniture, clothing, buildings

Specific examples of primary sources include:

- Diary of Anne Frank - Experiences of a Jewish family during WWII
- The Declaration of Arbroath
- The Treaty of Salisbury
- A journal article reporting NEW research or findings
- Hadrian's Wall and The Antonine Wall - The Roman occupation of Britain

What is a secondary source?

Information that has been produced by somebody else is known as a secondary source. A secondary source is made from information taken from primary sources. These sources are one or more steps removed from the event. Secondary sources may have pictures, quotes or graphics of primary sources in them. Secondary source information can be biased. Biased information is written to give only one particular opinion or to influence people's views. Avoid using biased information by checking:

- Who produced the information?
- What is the purpose of the information?
- Is the information trying to persuade people?
- Does the information give just one point of view?

Some types of secondary sources include:

PUBLICATIONS: Textbooks, magazine articles, histories, commentaries, encyclopedias, newspapers, directories, books and maps, DVDs and websites, television and radio

Examples of secondary sources include:

- A journal/magazine article which interprets or reviews previous findings
- A history textbook
- A book about the effects of WWI