

Name:

Date:

Identifying Primary and Secondary Sources

- Primary Source: a record made by people who saw or took part in an event (originates from the past)
- Secondary Source: a record of an event written by someone not there at the time

****Key question: Is this a primary/secondary source?** Ask yourself....**

Did/could the author/creator witness/make the artifact?

Yes = primary source

No = secondary source

Directions: Determine whether the following are primary or secondary sources. Circle the letter indicating whether the item is a "P" primary source or "S" secondary source. For each one, explain your reasoning in COMPLETE SENTENCES.

(P)PRIMARY - (S)SECONDARY

1. The story your grandfather tells you about his experience during the Korean War. **P S**

Why:

2. A letter written by George Washington to his mother about the latest developments in the Revolutionary War. **P S**

Why:

3. The *Diary of Anne Frank* - the published diary of a teenage girl who experiences the Holocaust first hand . **P S**

Why:

4. Your World History textbook or an encyclopedia. **P S**

Why:

5. Your high school diploma. **P S**

Why:

6. A photograph of you and your friends at your 8th birthday party. **P S**

Why:

7. The information from the museum tour guide who shows you around the exhibit and shares facts with you. **P S**

Why:

8. A mummy from ancient Egypt. **P S**

Why:

9. Give at least 2 more examples of a primary source.

a.

b.

10. Give at least 2 more examples of a secondary source.

a.

b.
