



Mediterranean Empires

Directions: Read about these resources. Then follow the directions on pages 23–28.

Use Primary and Secondary Sources

1 Primary sources are “snapshots” of history. They are created by people who were there. Primary sources can be in the form of a photograph, painting, letter, recording, or document. For example, the reports Julius Caesar wrote of his battles are primary sources. A textbook that describes Caesar’s battles would be a secondary source.

2 Both primary and secondary sources are valuable. Using both can add to your understanding of a topic. For example, a primary source may give important details or express emotions caused by a situation. A secondary source might include what was happening in several places at once, the outcome, or what we later learned about the causes. By using both kinds of

sources, you get a more complete picture. You can also check for errors or bias by using more than one source.

To use a primary source, consider the subject matter and point of view. If you have a subject to study, how do you get ideas for primary sources? Secondary sources will identify people involved, and you can search to find what they wrote. Also, secondary sources often list the primary sources they used.

As with all research, you must also consider the “speaker” in both primary and secondary sources. In looking at letters, you may also want to consider the person to whom the letter was written.



These preserved glass vessels provide a glimpse into the lives of the people of Pompeii.

3

4



Strategy 1 Locate Key Words in the Question

Learn

Read the question. Circle the key words and complete the sentence.

1. In what form might a primary source be?

Circle key words.

- A any text from a Web site
- B a letter
- C an encyclopedia
- D a textbook

I need to find out in what form a primary source might be.

Turn the question into a statement using key words.

Try It

Read each question. Circle the key words and complete each sentence.

2. What might a primary source add to the understanding of a topic?

- A emotions caused by an event
- B information about what was happening in several places at once
- C information about what we later learned about the causes of an event
- D the effects of the event on later generations of people

I need to find out _____

3. What can only a secondary source add to the understanding of a topic?

Use details from the text to support your answer.

I need to find out _____

4. Why is it important to consider the “speaker” in both primary and secondary sources? Use details from the text to support your answer.

I need to find out _____



Strategy 2 Locate Key Words in the Text

Learn

Read the question. Circle the key words and complete the sentence.

1. Based on paragraph 2, what can you use to check a secondary source? Use details from the text to support your answer.

I found the answer in paragraph 2, sentence 6.

- Look for and circle key words in the question.
- Look for and circle key words in the text that match key words in the question.

- The question asks you to tell what you can check a secondary source against.
- You will have to **look in one place in the text** for information.

Try It

Read each question. Circle the key words and complete each sentence.

2. Based on paragraph 3, how might information in a secondary source lead to a primary source?

- A A primary source expresses emotions about events.
- B A primary source refers to a Web site.
- C A secondary source often lists primary sources used.
- D A secondary source tells about what is happening in several places at once.

I found the answer in _____

3. What might a secondary source add to the understanding of a topic? Use details from the text to support your answer.

I found the answer in _____

4. Why is it important to consider the “speaker” in both primary and secondary sources? Use details from the text to support your answer.

I found the answer in _____



Strategy 3 Choose the Right Answer

Learn

Cross out any choice you know is wrong. Next, go back to the text to rule out any other choices. Then mark your answer choice.

1. In what form might a primary source be?

- A ~~any text from a Web site~~
- B a letter
- C ~~an encyclopedia~~
- D ~~a textbook~~

You will have to **look in one place in the text.**

Rule out the incorrect choices. Choose answer B because the text supports this choice.

Try It

Cross out any choice you know is wrong. Next, go back to the text to rule out any other choices. Then mark your answer choice.

2. What might a primary source add to understanding a topic?

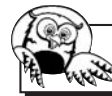
- A emotions caused by an event
- B information about what was happening in several places at once
- C information about what we later learned about the causes of an event
- D the effects of the event on later generations of people

3. What can only a secondary source add to the understanding of a topic?

- A how events happened minute by minute
- B how a person reacted to an event
- C what soldiers wore on the battlefield
- D what was happening in several places at once

4. Based on paragraph 2, why when doing research would you want to use both primary and secondary sources?

- A It helps you eliminate sources which oppose your viewpoint.
- B It helps you find out which sources are famous.
- C It enables you to change topics.
- D It helps you get a more complete picture.

**Strategy 4 Use Information from the Text****Learn**

Use information from the text to answer the question.

1. (What) are some (examples) of (primary) (sources)? Use details from the text to support your answer.

My Notes: ~~snapshots of history~~, photograph, painting,
letter, recording, document

My Answer: Examples of primary sources are
photographs, paintings, letters, recordings, and documents.

- Look for and circle key words in the question.
- The question asks for examples of primary sources.
- Read the text and **make notes** about examples of primary sources.

Reread the question and cross out any notes that do not apply to the question.

Answer the question in your own words.

Try It

Use information from the text to answer each question.

2. What type of information might a secondary source include? Use details from the text to support your answer.

My Notes: _____

My Answer: _____

3. When using a primary source, what is important to consider? Use details from the text to support your answer.

My Notes: _____

My Answer: _____



Strategy 5 Use Information from Graphics

Learn

Look at the photograph and read the caption on page 22. Use information from the photograph and caption to answer the question.

1. Based on the photograph and caption, what makes these objects primary sources? Use details to support your answer.

Look for and circle key words in the question.

To find the answer, I will look at the photograph of the vessels and read the caption about the vessels.

My Answer: The objects are primary sources because they were used by the people of Pompeii.

Look at page 22. Analyze the photograph and caption. Use details to answer the question.

Try It

Look at the photograph and read the caption on page 22. Use information from the photograph and caption to answer each question.

2. Based on the photograph, what are some ways that the objects are alike? Use details to support your answer.

To find the answer, I will _____

My Answer: _____

3. Based on the photograph, what kind of vessel is in the middle of the other vessels? Use details to support your answer.

To find the answer, I will _____

My Answer: _____



Strategy 6 Write Your Answer to Score High

Learn

Examine this sample done by an imaginary student named Bikram. Analyze Bikram’s work. Cross out unfocused information. What should he do to score higher?

1. Why are the reports Julius Caesar wrote of his battles considered primary sources? Use details from the text to support your answer.

Bikram’s Notes: *created by people there, reports, Julius Caesar, wrote of battles, primary sources, textbook describes Caesar’s battles, secondary source*

Bikram’s Answer: *Primary sources are created by people who are a part of or witness events. Julius Caesar wrote about battles. That is why his reports are considered primary sources. A textbook about Caesar’s battles is a secondary source.*

Bikram circled key words in the question.

Bikram’s information about battles is incomplete.

Bikram’s notes include unfocused information.

To score higher, Bikram needs to add “his” to “battles” to make the answer complete, and cross out unfocused information about a secondary source.

Try It

Examine this sample done by an imaginary student named Patti. Analyze Patti’s work. Cross out unfocused information. What should she do to score higher?

2. Why are both primary and secondary sources valuable? Use details from the text to support your answer.

Patti’s Notes: *add to understanding of topic, give a more complete picture, help check for bias, consider the subject matter and point of view*

Patti’s Answer: *A primary source and a secondary source help you understand a topic more fully. They can give a more complete picture. They help check for bias. You also have to consider the subject matter and point of view.*

To score higher, Patti needs to _____

