



Teaching Guide for Primary vs. Secondary Sources

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Essential Questions: What are primary and secondary sources? What is the difference between them?

Objective: Students will be to:

1. define primary source.
2. define secondary source.
3. sort given sources by type.
4. list two primary and one secondary source related to themselves.

Materials:

- Hook:
 - Diary Entry image
 - Picture book image
- Body:
 - Primary and Secondary source definition posters
 - Vocabulary Definitions page for students
- Closure: Source Sort – Sorting Cards, Sorting Page and answer key
- Checking for Understanding: Ticket to Leave

Hook: Show the class the two images in this file that have the heading, “Topic: Erie Canal”. One has a diary entry written in 1834 by a woman who rode the canal; the other has the picture book *The Amazing Impossible Erie Canal*, by Cheryl Harness, published in 1999. Have a discussion about these two sources. How are they alike (they are about the same topic – both tell about riding on the Canal). How are they different? (One was written by someone who rode the canal, the other was written by someone who researched about the canal and then wrote a picture book).

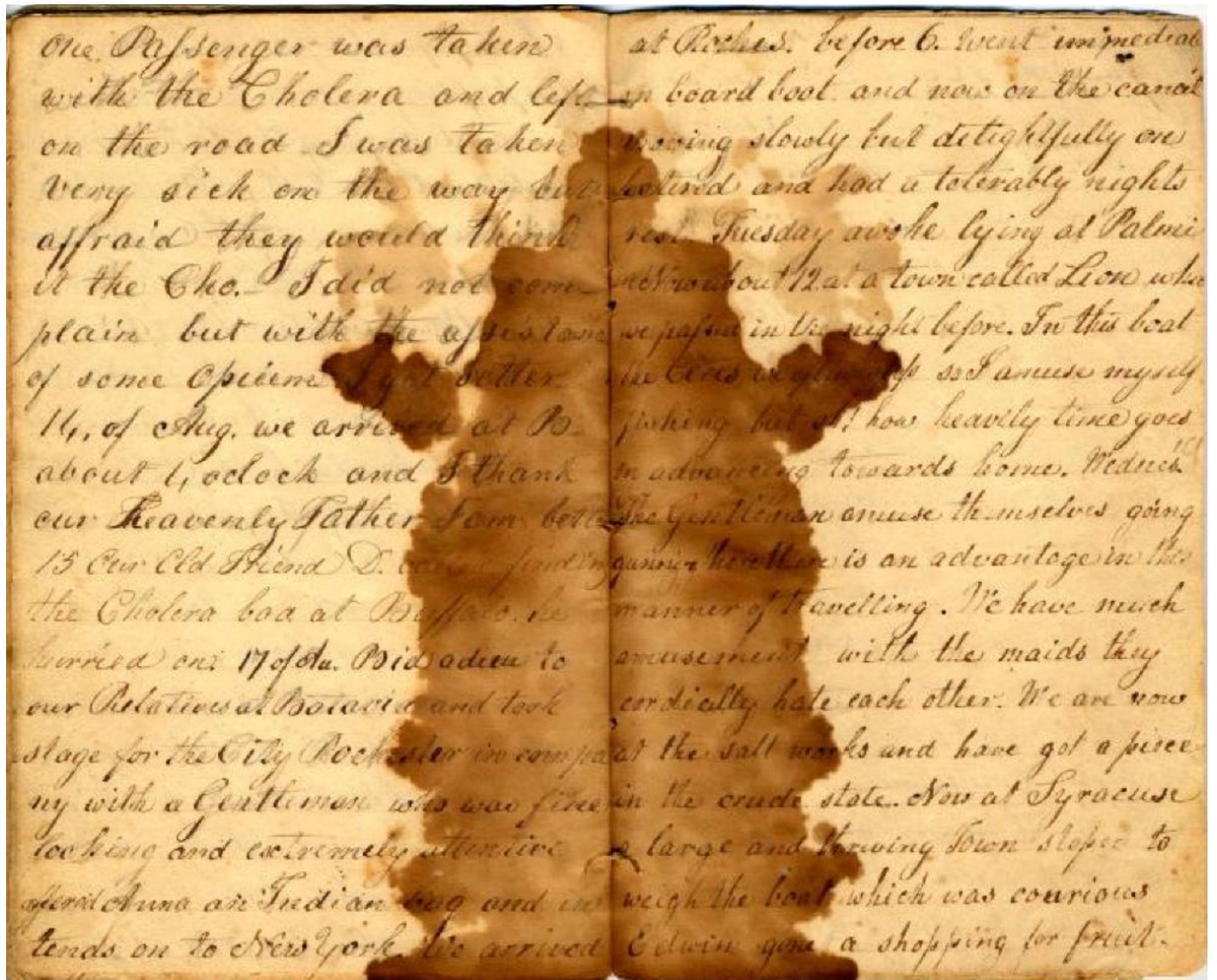
Body: Lead into a discussion about primary versus secondary sources. Posters with the definition of each are provided. A page for students to record these definitions is also provided. After you record the definitions work together to brainstorm other primary and secondary source types (see the key for the sorting game for ideas). Record these on the definition page as well.

Closure: Give students the “Sources Sort – Sorting Cards” page. Have them cut out each source square. Next hand out the Sources Sort – Sorting Page. Students should organize the sorting cards on this page in the correct column. This could be done whole class, in partners or independently. Once their work is correct they should glue them down. There is a key provided.

Checking for Understanding: A “Ticket to Leave” is provided as a quick assessment.

Topic: Erie Canal

Diary written by a woman named Rachel Wilmer, who traveled the Canal in 1834.



One Passenger was taken with the Cholera and left on the road. I was taken very sick on the way but afraid they would think it the Cho. I did not come plain but with the assistance of some Opium I got better.

14, of Aug. we arrived at P. about 1, o'clock and I thank our Heavenly Father for both.

15 Our Old Friend D. being finding the Cholera bad at Buffalo he hurried on 17 of Aug. Vidada to our Relations at Potomac and took stage for the City Rochester in company with a Gentleman who was fine looking and extremely attentive.

Several Indians are on the road and one tends on to New York. We arrived at Riches. before 6. went immediately on board boat and now on the canal moving slowly but delightfully on.

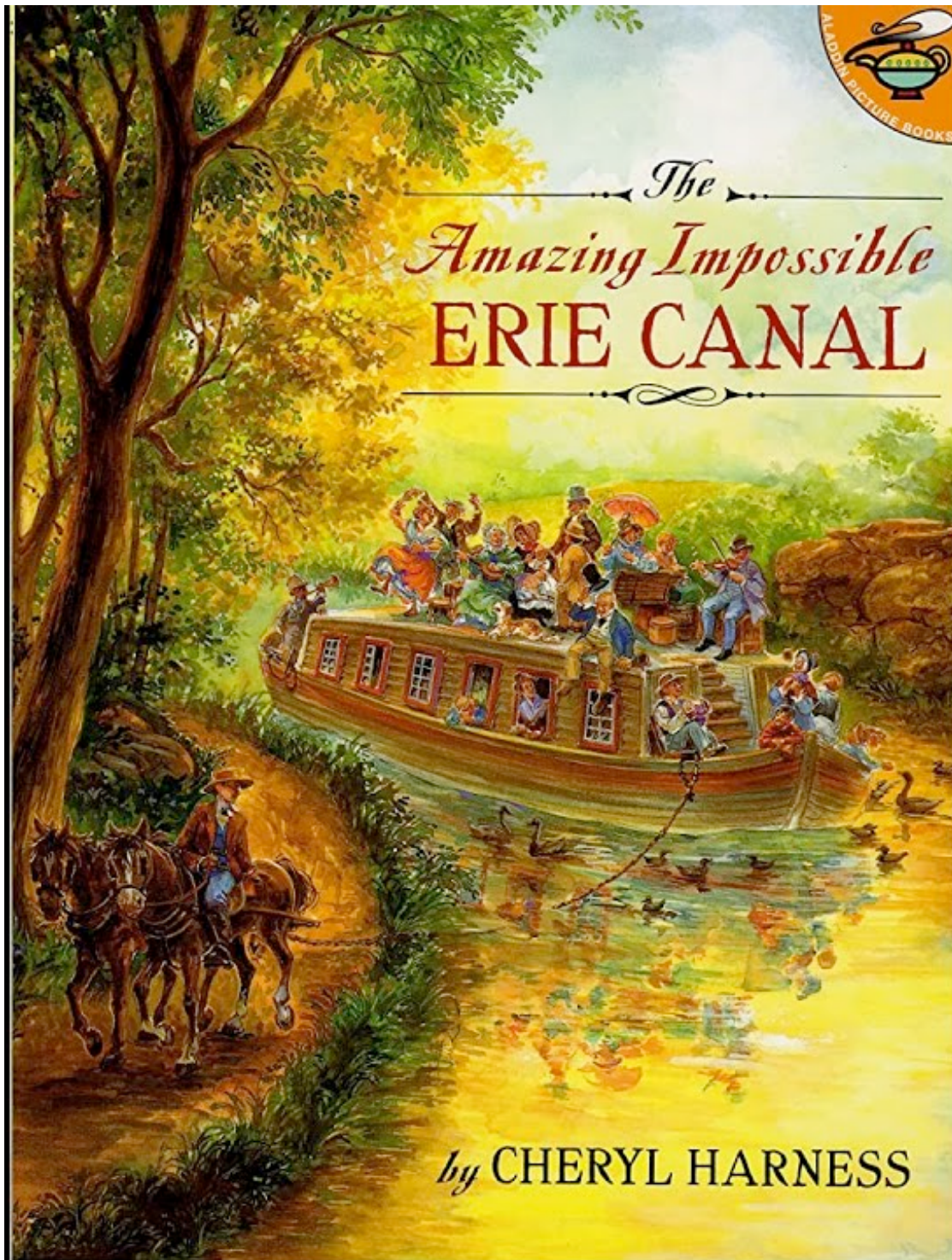
Tuesday we are lying at Palmira about 12 at a town called Leone where we passed in the night before. In this boat the Girls are playing and I amuse myself fishing but oh! how heavily time goes in advancing towards home.

Wednesday The Gentlemen amuse themselves going quinine here there is an advantage in this manner of travelling. We have much amusement with the maids they cordially hate each other. We are now at the salt works and have got a piece in the crude state. Now at Syracuse a large and thriving town slopes to weigh the boat which was curious.

Edwin goes a shopping for fruit.

Topic: Erie Canal

The Amazing Impossible Erie Canal by Cheryl Harness. Published in 1999

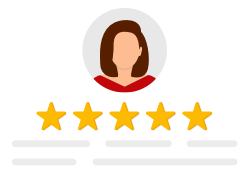
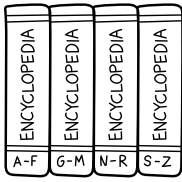




Primary Sources

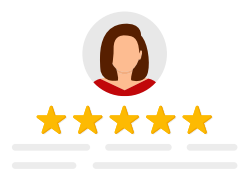
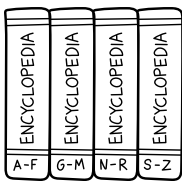
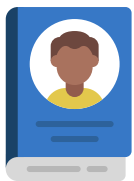
Original documents and
objects/artifacts that were
created at the time being
studied.





Secondary Sources

Accounts that retell, analyze,
or interpret events, usually at
a distance of time or place.





Primary Sources

List some examples.



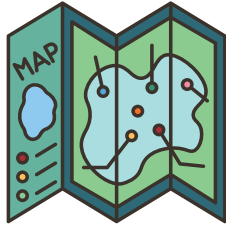
Secondary Sources

List some examples.



SOURCES SORT - SORTING CARDS

Cut out the cards. Sort them into groups – primary sources and secondary sources.



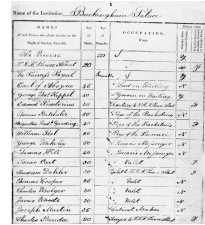
Map



Text Books



Research Paper



Census



Biography



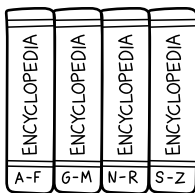
Photographs



News Reports



Documentary



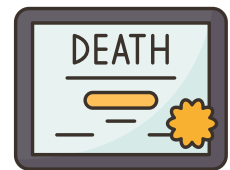
Encyclopedia



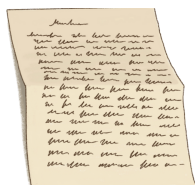
Diary



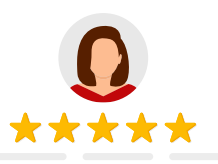
Dictionary



Birth or Death
Certificates



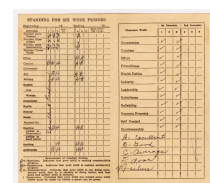
Letter



Review



Letter to the
Editor



Report Card

Name: _____

SOURCES SORT - SORTING PAGE

Use this page to sort your cards onto. Once you are certain your work is correct, glue the cards down.

Primary Source

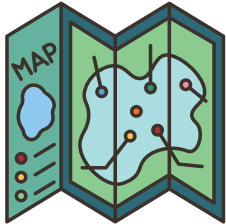
Secondary Source

KEY

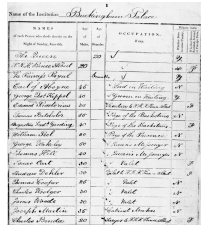
SOURCES SORT

Use this page to sort your cards on.

Primary Source



Map



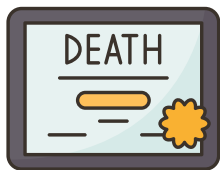
Census



News Reports



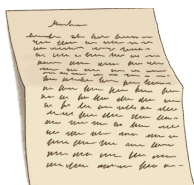
Photographs



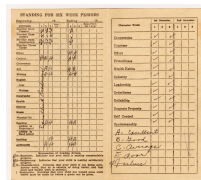
Birth or Death
Certificates



Diary



Letter



Report Card

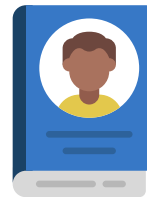
Secondary Source



Research Paper



Text Books



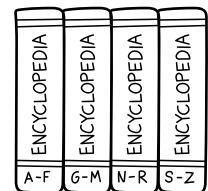
Biography



Documentary



Dictionary



Encyclopedia



Letter to the
Editor



Review

Name: _____



Imagine someone wants to learn more about you! List two primary sources and one secondary source that could be used to research you.

Two primary sources about you.

One secondary source about you.



Name: _____

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Two primary sources about you.

One secondary source about you.