



Primary vs. Secondary Sources

Primary Source:

A primary source is a document or object from the past created by people who lived during that time. Primary sources provide a view into an event or experience that only people living during that time could have experienced. Using a primary source, or an original document created by someone living in the past about their own experience, help to describe what the person in the past experienced.

Archives collect and preserve primary sources so that students can learn history from the experiences of people who were there. At an archives, primary sources are called records. At museums, primary sources are called artifacts.

Secondary Sources:

Secondary sources are documents people today write about the past. A secondary source is a document or recording that writes or speaks about information that is one step removed from the original source. The secondary source depends on the primary source or original source of the information. Secondary sources interpret, evaluate or discuss information found in primary sources.

What are some other examples of primary and secondary sources?

Primary Source <i>original material from the past</i>	Secondary Source <i>material people today write about the past</i>
Letters	Textbooks
Diaries	Reference books
Photographs	Websites such as Wikipedia
Paintings and sketches	Current news articles
Graphs	Documentaries
Maps	Movies
Interviews	Review of a movie or television show

Have you ever used a primary source before?

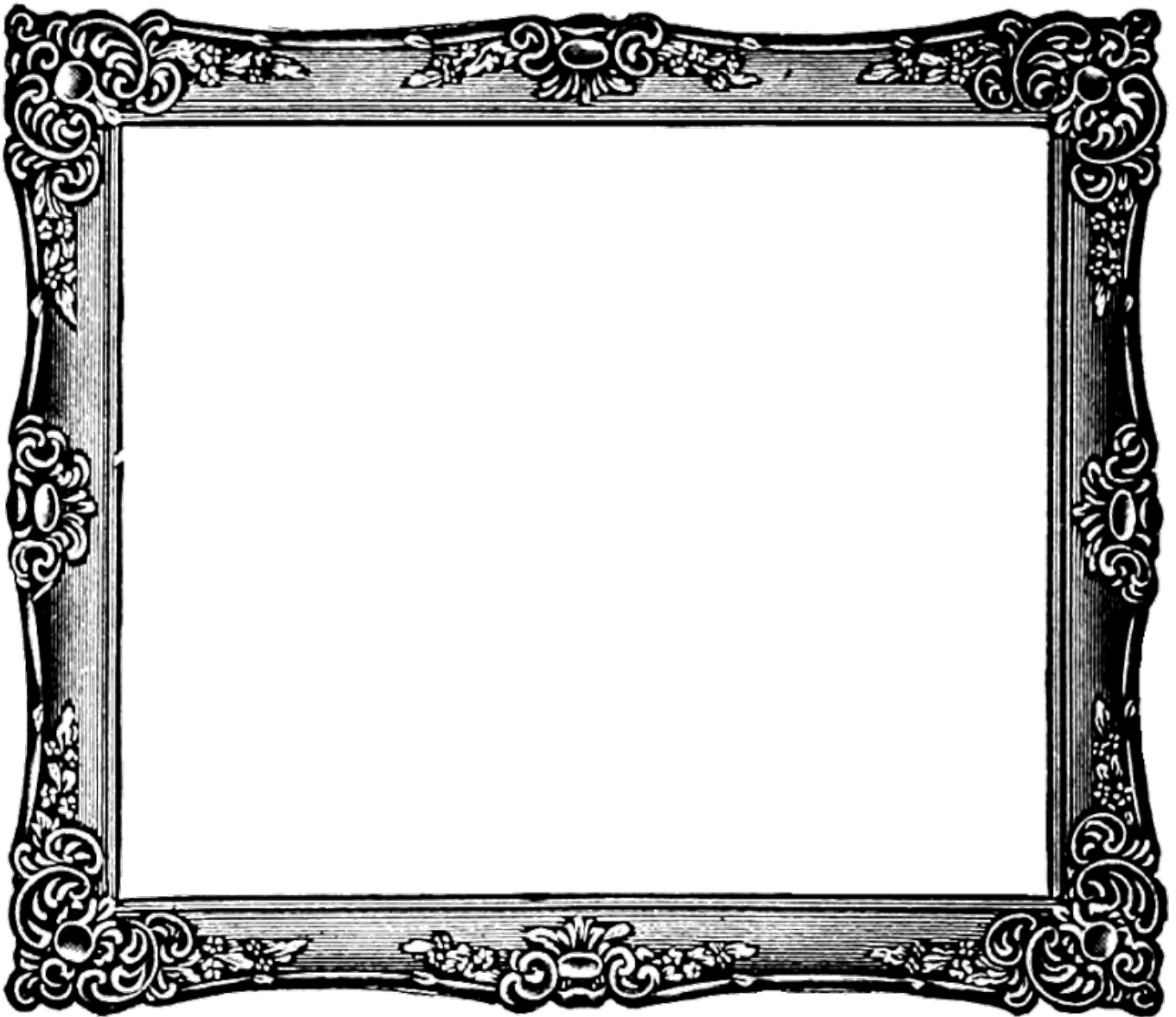
Have you ever used a secondary source before?

Use this blank diary page to write of a new experience that you had this year.



How can this record be a primary source in the future?

Use this blank picture frame to sketch a picture of a new experience that you had this year.



How can this record be a primary source in the future?

Using a primary source that was created by a friend, design a comic strip of their experience.

The image shows a blank comic strip template. It consists of seven rectangular panels arranged in three rows. The top row has two panels of equal size. The middle row has three panels of equal size. The bottom row has two panels of equal size. All panels are empty and outlined with a simple black border.