

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Skill: Reading Comprehension

Read the story and answer the questions.

### Learning About History

History is about anything that has happened in the past. There are several kinds of information that historians, people who study the past, use to learn information about history. One kind of information is called a primary source. A primary source is information that comes directly from the time

being studied. For example, if a student wanted to find out about events from an historical event, a good primary source would be a newspaper or photograph from that time period. Old newspapers and pictures can be found at a library. Another good primary source would be someone who actually observed, or saw, the event. Historians also use secondary sources to study the past. An example of a secondary source would be a history textbook used in schools. These are considered secondary sources because the authors and historians who wrote about the events did not actually experience the event as it happened.



1. What is the main idea of this story? (Circle the answer)
  - A. The Civil War is an historical event.
  - B. Primary and secondary sources are good ways to learn about history.
  - C. Libraries have newspapers and photographs from the past.
2. What is an example of a primary source?  
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3. What does the word "observe" mean? (Circle the answer)
  - A. to see
  - B. to make fun of
  - C. to think about
4. What is a person who studies the past called?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. A word that means "to participate in events or activities" is: (Circle the answer)
  - A. secondary
  - B. experience
  - C. study
6. Name a secondary source that you might find in your classroom.  
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