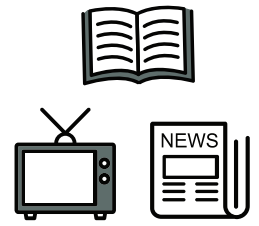


Identifying Primary & Secondary Sources



Historians use different kinds of sources to study the past.

Primary sources are accounts from people who witness historical events and are usually created when the events take place.

Examples: • speeches • newspaper stories • diaries • letters • photographs • posters

Secondary sources are written by historians or other people who research historical events by studying primary sources and are usually created later in time.

Examples: • academic articles • history books • textbooks • documentaries

Non-historical sources are fictional stories set in the past. Their purpose is to entertain rather than inform, so they are not used to study history.

Examples: • television shows • movies • historical fiction books

DIRECTIONS: Read the table on different sources related to World War II (1939–1945). Decide whether each source is **primary**, **secondary**, or **non-historical**.

	PRIMARY SOURCE	SECONDARY SOURCE	NON-HISTORICAL SOURCE
1. <i>Saving Private Ryan</i> , a Hollywood film from 1998 about a rescue mission in 1944			X
2. <i>The Diary of a Young Girl</i> , a book written by a Jewish girl named Anne Frank while she was hiding from Nazi authorities from 1942 to 1944	X		
3. The book <i>Forgotten Ally: China's WWII</i> , written by historian Rana Mitter in 2013		X	
4. A military recruitment poster made by the U.S. government in 1942	X		
5. <i>The War</i> , a Ken Burns documentary from 2007 about the experience of Americans during World War II		X	
6. <i>Night Will Fall</i> , a documentary produced in 2014 about concentration camps in Nazi Germany		X	
7. <i>The Book Thief</i> , a novel published in 2005 that imagines a fictional German girl's experience growing up during World War Two			X
8. A political cartoon drawn by Dr. Seuss in 1940, arguing that America should enter World War II	X		