

# Getting Information from Primary Sources

Primary source documents tell important information about a subject. A census is considered to be a primary source, since it records current information.

Below is the 1930 U.S. Census for Walt Disney, and his wife. Next door is his brother, Roy Disney and his family. Walt and Roy Disney started Walt Disney Productions in 1923. The company produced movies such as *Bambi*, *Lady and the Tramp* and *Peter Pan*. It also created Mickey Mouse and built popular theme parks, such as Disneyland and Disney World.

This census was taken right after the company introduced Mickey Mouse in 1928, but before its first big movie, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*.

1930 U.S. Census,  
Los Angeles County, California

Disney, Walter E.	Head	M	W	28	Illinois	Canada-English	Ohio	Producer	Motion Pictures
Disney, Lillian B.	Wife	F	W	30	Idaho	Idaho	Washington	None	
Disney, Roy O.	Head	M	W	36	Illinois	Canada-English	Ohio	Sound Recorder	Motion Pictures
Disney, Edna	Wife	F	W	40	Kansas	Missouri	Wisconsin	None	
Disney, Roy E.	Son	M	W	3/12	California	Illinois	Kansas	None	
Francis, Lettie M.	Mother-in-law	F	W	63	Wisconsin	Ohio	Pennsylvania	None	

Here's what the handwriting says:

Name	Relationship	Sex	Race	Age	Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Job/ Industry
Disney, Walter E.	Head	M	W	28	Illinois	Canada/ English	Ohio	Producer Motion Pictures
Disney, Lillian B.	Wife of head	F	W	30	Idaho	Idaho	Washington	none
Disney, Roy O.	Head	M	W	36	Illinois	Canada/ English	Ohio	Sound Recorder Motion Pictures
Disney, Edna	Wife of head	F	W	40	Kansas	Missouri	Wisconsin	none
Disney, Roy E.	Son	M	W	3/12	California	Illinois	Kansas	none
Francis, Lettie M.	Mother-in-law	F	W	63	Wisconsin	Ohio	Pennsylvania	none

## Q&A

Answer the following questions based on the information in the census

Who is older, Roy or Walt?

Roy

If Edna, Roy's wife, is 40 in 1930, what year was she born?

1890

Where was Walt's father born?

Canada

The age for Roy's son, Roy E., is 3/12. Is he more or less than one year old?

less than a year

Lettie is listed as Roy's mother-in-law. Who is her daughter?

Edna

Where was Lillian born?

Idaho