

Primary vs. Secondary Sources

How do I know which is
which?

Primary Sources



- a document or physical object that was written or created during the time under study.
- These sources were present during an experience or time period and offer an inside view of a particular event.

Primary Sources

- **ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS** (excerpts or translations acceptable): Diaries, speeches, manuscripts, letters, interviews, news film footage, autobiographies, official records
- **CREATIVE WORKS:** Poetry, drama, novels, music, art
- **RELICS OR ARTIFACTS:** Pottery, furniture, clothing, buildings



Primary Sources

- *Diary of Anne Frank* - Experiences of a Jewish family during WWII
- The U.S. Constitution – United States History
- A journal article reporting NEW research or findings
- Weavings and pottery - Native American history
- Plato's *Republic* - Women in Ancient Greece

Secondary Sources



- interprets and analyzes primary sources
- These sources are one or more steps removed from the event.
- Secondary sources may have pictures, quotes or graphics of primary sources in them.

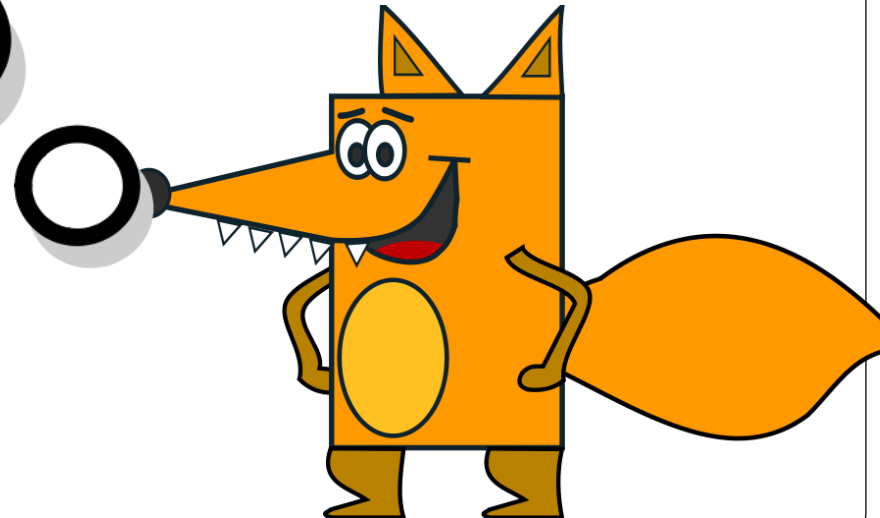
Secor

**We all got
something to
say!**



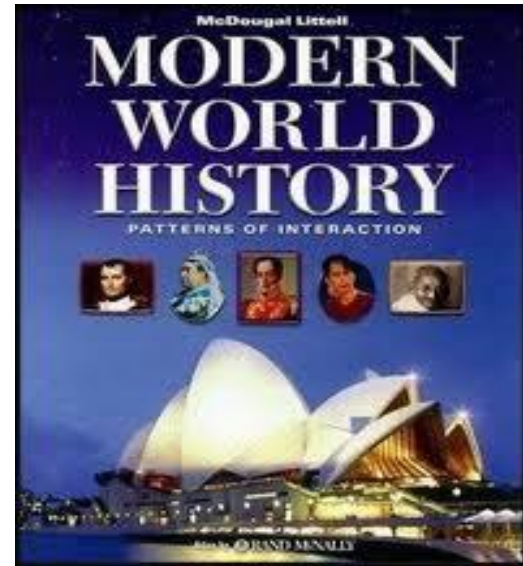
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s, magazine
ms, commentaries,



Secondary Sources

- Your textbook!
- Wikipedia
- *World War II in HD* (footage is primary, commentary is secondary)
- A book about the hidden meanings in *The Diary of Anne Frank*

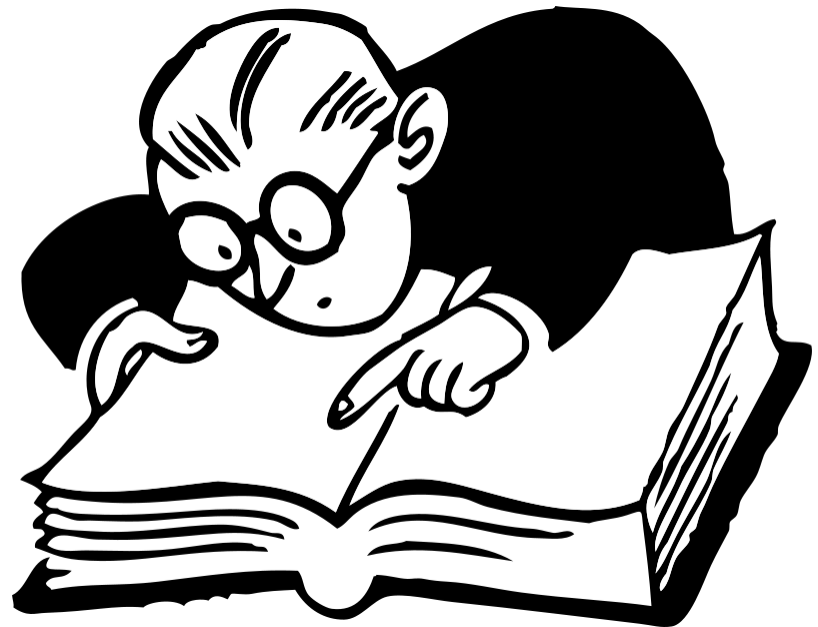


What is History, then?

- History is...
- Someone taking primary sources and playing detective

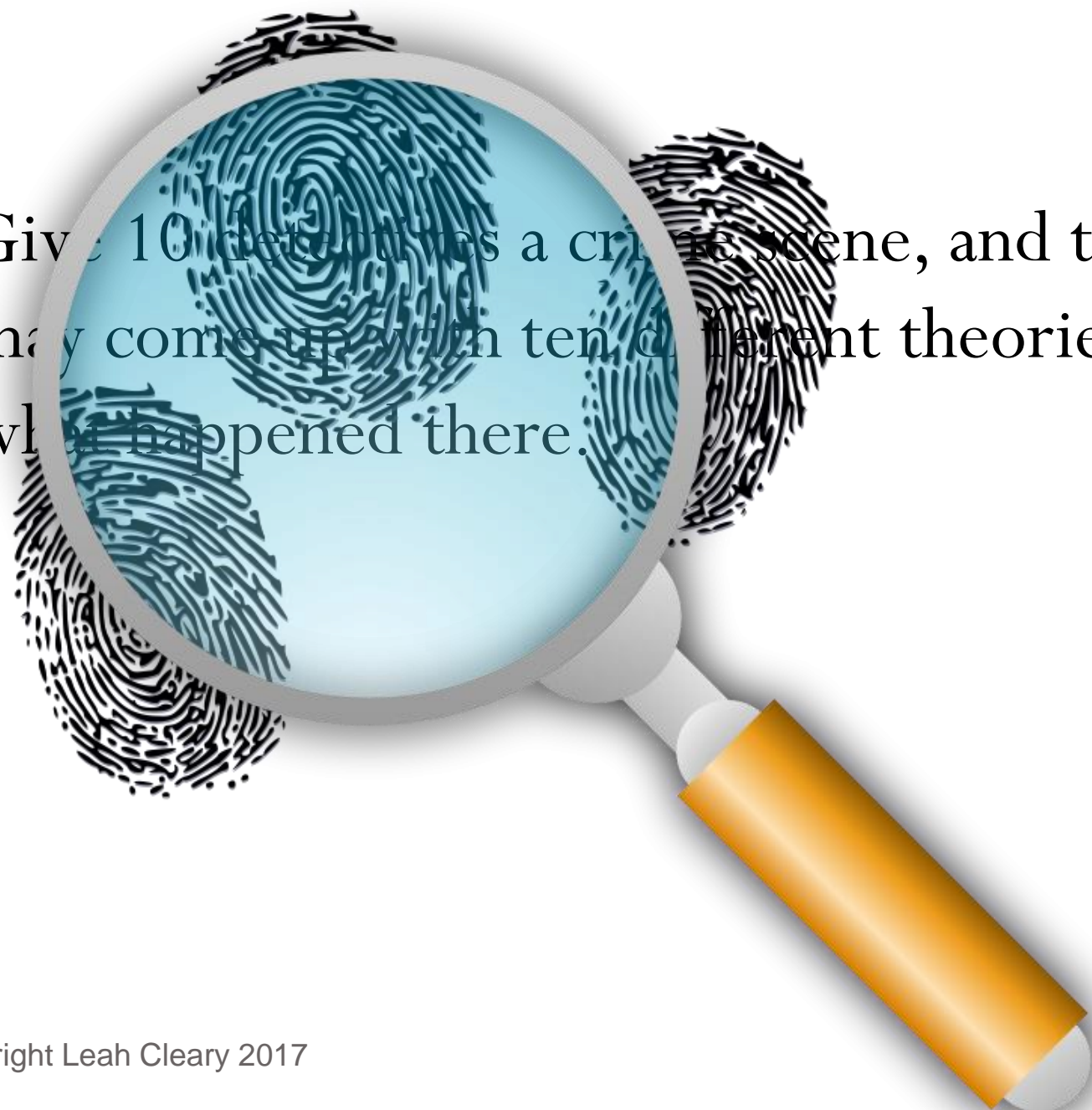
What do detectives do?

- Look at evidence and
- Use it to tell a story of what probably happened.



So

- Primary sources are evidence.
- Historians are detectives.
- Secondary sources are theories based on the evidence.

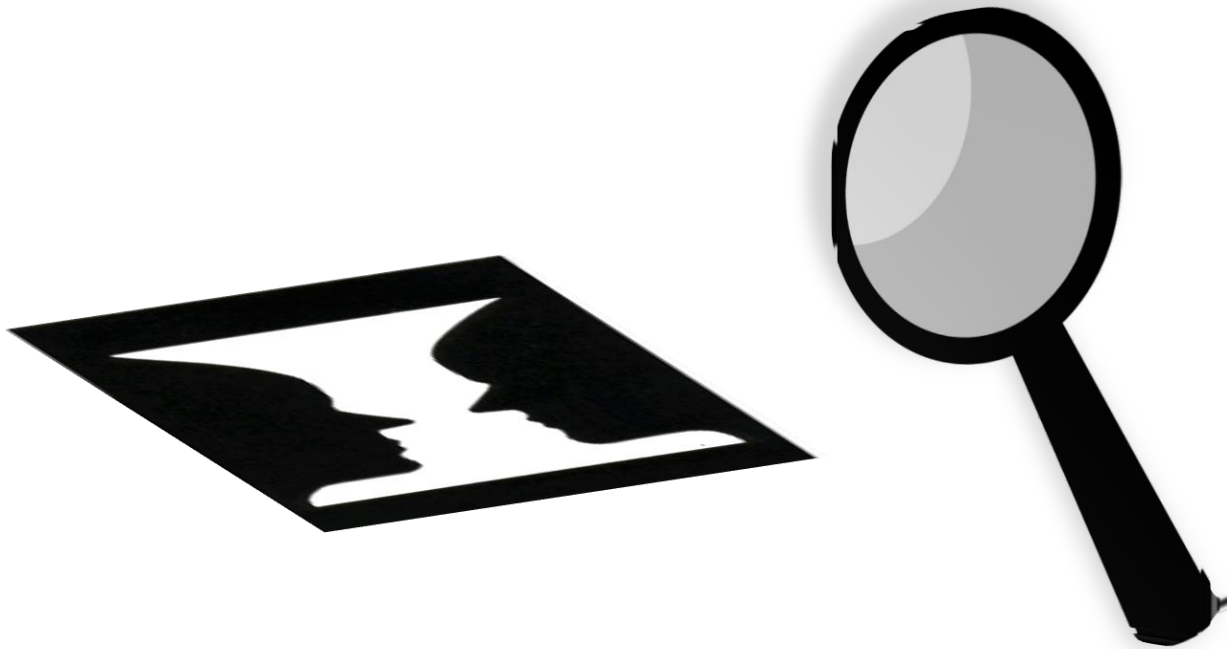
- 
- Give 10 detectives a crime scene, and they may come up with ten different theories of what happened there.

- Take
site,
differ



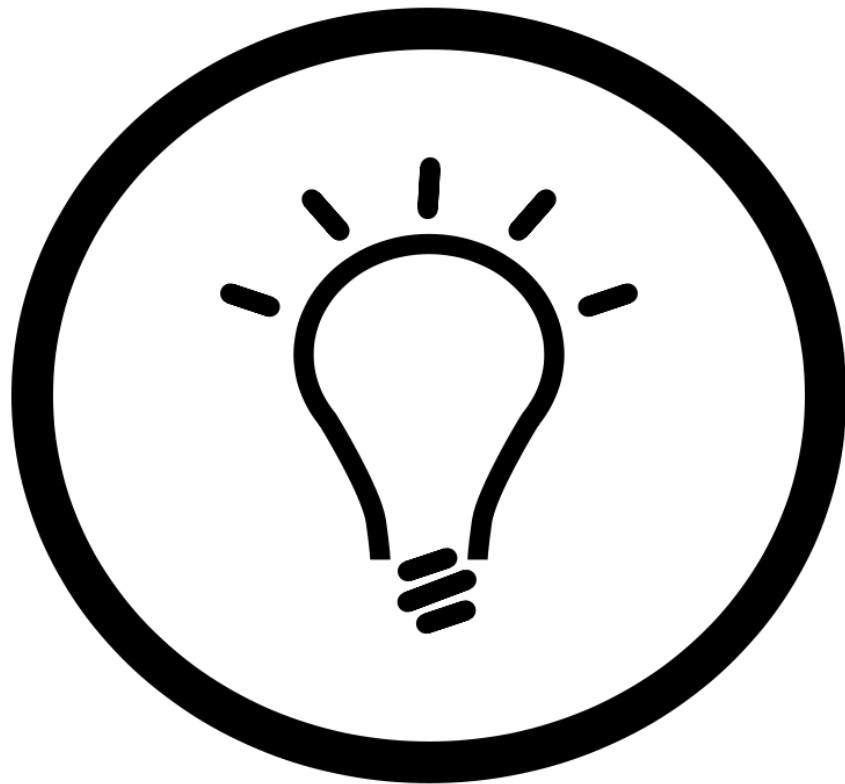
ological
there.

- In this class, you are the historians



How do you see it?

- You will look at evidence and draw your own conclusions.



Here's how you'll do it:

- A
- P
- P
- A
- R
- T
- S

A

• Aut

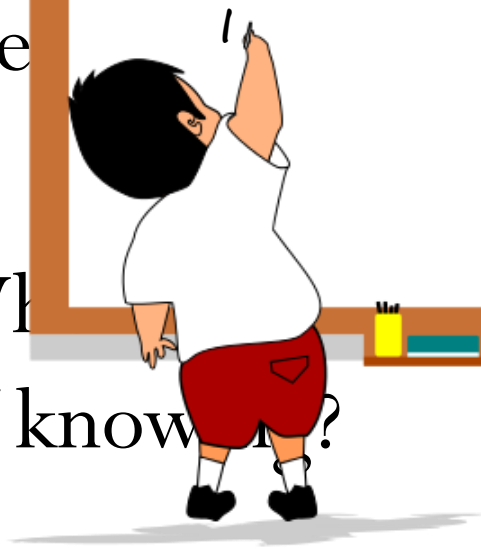
*I will not sleep in class
I will not sleep in class
I will not sleep in class
I will not sleep in class*

• Ide

• Wh

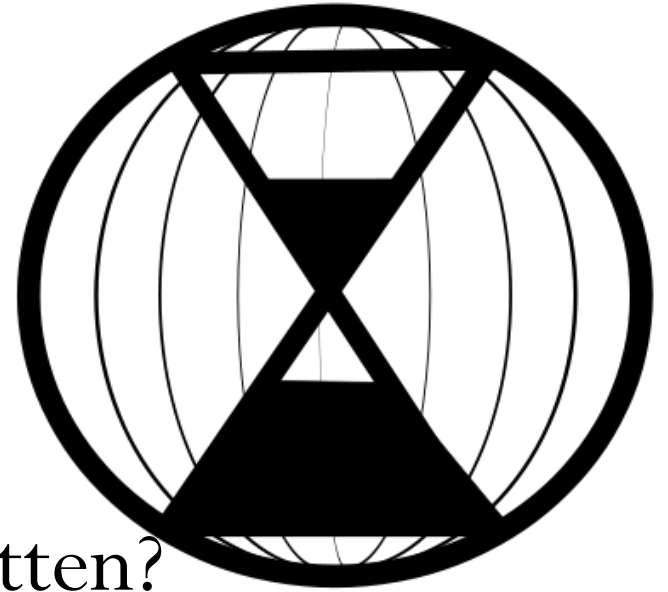
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P

- Place & Time
- Where was this made/written?
- When was this made/written?



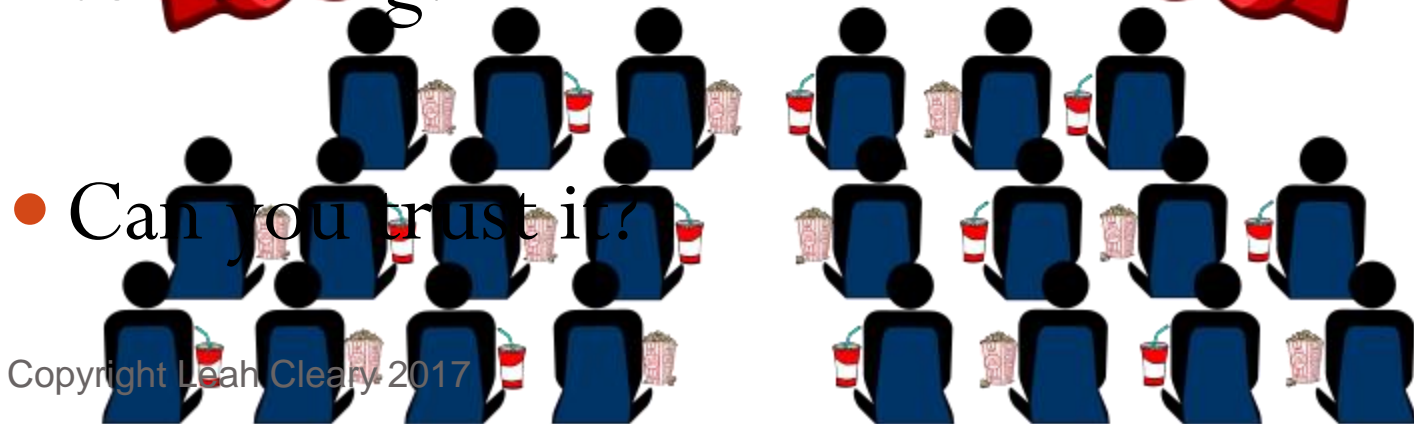
P

- Prior Knowledge
- What did you know about this before looking at it?

CINEMA

A

- Audience
- Who was this made/written for?
- Is it trying to convince somebody of something?



R

- Reason
- Why was it created?
- To enforce laws?
- To preach morals?
- To Entertain?



T



- What happens

The main
idea

S

- Significance



- Why is this important?
- What does it tell us about the people it was written for? Their morals? How they lived? What they enjoyed?

Let's Do One Together



**Ancient
Egyptian
Instrument**