

Is It Primary or Secondary Activity

1. Is a book a primary or secondary source?
 - a. Primary
 - b. Secondary
 - c. It Depends
2. If an archeologist reported her findings, diagrams and photographs after unearthing a previously undiscovered building at Pompeii (buried under volcanic ash in 79 C.E.), would her report be considered a primary or secondary source?
 - a. Primary
 - b. Secondary
3. If someone wrote an essay about their experience of watching 9/11 and its aftermath unfold live on television and how they felt about it, would their essay be a primary or secondary source?
 - a. Primary
 - b. Secondary
4. Structural engineers examined the site after the attack to determine why the structural integrity of the towers failed. Would the report they wrote, based on their original research on site and experiments in their engineering lab, be a primary or secondary source?
 - a. Primary
 - b. Secondary
5. If a student wrote a research paper about why the structural integrity of the towers failed, based on what they saw unfold on television, along with the report by structural engineers, and other sources, would their research paper be a primary or secondary source?
 - a. Primary
 - b. Secondary

Is It Primary or Secondary Activity Answer Key

1. **C. It Depends:** It could be either, it depends on the content and context.
2. **A. Primary:** It does not matter that the author of the report did not live back in the time of ancient Pompeii. She is giving a first-hand account of her own discovery and fieldwork.
3. **A. Primary:** They were there and they wrote about their own first-hand experience.
4. **A. Primary:** They are researchers reporting the results/findings/data from their own original research and experiments.
5. **B. Secondary:** Even though they were living at the time of the events of 9/11, they are not an engineer and they did not conduct their own original research and experiments to determine why the towers fell. They are using the work of others to interpret or analyze the topic.