**What is a Primary Source?**

Simply put, primary sources are the original items or records that have survived from the past – such as clothing, letters, photographs, and manuscripts. They were part of a direct personal experience of a time or event. For the purpose of contrast, it is important to note that secondary sources are created by documenting or analyzing someone else’s experience to provide a perspective or framework of a past event. They may have been written long after an event took place and include items such as textbooks, encyclopedias, biographies, and documentaries.

