

Ask a source question

Suggested: Years 3-6 | Pupil page

Name: _____ Date: _____

Connect a historical question to what a source can and cannot show.

Simulated source: A 2005 library poster says "Saturday opening: 10:00-12:00. Story session at 10:30. All welcome." Its designer and actual attendance are unknown. This is an invented poster, not an authentic record.

1. Write one question the poster directly answers and give the answer.

2. Write one question about actual attendance that it cannot answer.

3. Does All welcome prove everyone felt welcome? Explain.

4. Suggest another source for investigating who actually attended.

5. Why would knowing the poster's creator and purpose help you use it?

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Learning focus

Connect a historical question to what a source can and cannot show.

Model and use

Pair a what was advertised question with the relevant printed words, then contrast it with what happened.

Read or explore the example together. Let the learner try the task using an accessible response method, then discuss the reasoning. Use the check below to decide whether to revisit a step.

Answers / review criteria

1. Example: What time was the story session advertised? 10:30.
2. Example: How many people attended? No attendance data are given.
3. No. It is an invitation, not evidence of every person's experience.
4. A suitable attendance total, event report or contextualised accounts; handle any real personal records appropriately.
5. It helps interpret what the poster was trying to communicate and what it may omit.

Support

Give answered / not answered headings and two prepared questions to sort.

Challenge

Explain how two sources could answer different parts of the same enquiry.

What to look for

Can the learner match a question to a source's actual evidential scope?

Print page 1 for the activity; keep page 2 for teaching. Suggested age ranges are selection aids, not curriculum alignment claims. Responses may be spoken, drawn, pointed to, typed or recorded through the learner's usual communication method.