

History source detectives

Suggested: Years 3-5 | Pupil page

Distinguish what two simulated sources show from what remains unknown.

Name: _____ Date: _____

These two sources are invented for this activity. They are not authentic historical evidence.

Read each source. Use shown, stated, suggested or unknown to make the strength of your answer clear.

Source A - simulated poster, dated 2010

Toy library opens Saturday at 10 am. Borrow a toy and bring it back next week.

Source B - simulated photo caption, dated 2026

The toy-library room has toy shelves and a repair table. No people are visible.

Two things the poster states

One thing the photo caption describes

Does either source show how many visitors came? Explain.

One question I would ask about the library's history

History source detectives | Teacher notes

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Purpose and use

Distinguish what two simulated sources show from what remains unknown.

Teaching notes

Model a direct statement, then a question the source cannot answer. A poster tells us what was advertised, not necessarily what happened.

A photo caption can identify visible objects while leaving out people, dates or reasons. Discuss the creator and purpose of any real source used later.

Answers / suggested responses

The poster advertises a Saturday opening at 10 am and toy borrowing. It does not prove how many visitors came or how long the library stayed open.

The simulated caption describes shelves and a repair table in 2026. It does not prove that repairs were successful or that the 2010 service continued without a break.

Print and adapt

Print page 1 for the activity and keep this teacher page. Use A4 paper at Actual size. Suggested ranges are starting points, not curriculum-alignment claims.

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