

Identifying Sources: What were the structures and functions within colonial families?

Teaching With Documents
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People living in the past left many clues about their lives. These clues include both primary and secondary sources in the form of books, personal papers, government documents, letters, oral accounts, diaries, maps, photographs, reports, novels and short stories, artifacts, coins, stamps, and many other things.

Primary sources are actual records (or copies of actual records) that have survived from the past.

Secondary sources are accounts of the past created by people writing about events sometime after they happened.

Review the documents included in this lesson and sort them into two groups - primary sources or secondary sources, . As you sort the documents explain why you assigned them to one of the two groups. If you cannot decide which type of source it is add to the undecided group at the bottom of the page and explain why you could not decide if it was primary or secondary source.

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Undecided group