

PRIMARY

VERSUS

SECONDARY

COMPARING SOURCES



primary sources
are eyewitnesses
to history.

created during
the time period
of study or by
someone who
lived through
the time period
of study

gives a direct link
to the time period
under study and
acts as the main
evidence in
arguments about
the past.



secondary
sources are the
result of
research.

created after the
time period of
study by someone
who has analyzed
and studied
primary sources

gives context,
analysis, and a
starting place for
building new
arguments about
the past.

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Examples of Primary Sources

- legal documents
- diaries
- letters
- artifacts
- artwork
- government records
- oral histories
- contemporary news articles
- photographs
- music



Examples of Secondary Sources

- biographies
- nonfiction history books
- articles in scholarly journals
- encyclopedias
- reference books
- textbooks
- news articles written about historic events



GOOD RESEARCH
INCLUDES A VARIETY OF
PRIMARY AND
SECONDARY SOURCES

Land and Allegiance in Revolutionary Georgia by Leslie Hall. University of Georgia Press, 2001.

"Revolutionary War in Georgia," by Edwin Cashin. *New Georgia Encyclopedia*

"Women and the American Revolution in Georgia," by Ben Marsh. *Georgia Historical Quarterly*. Vol. 88, No. 2 (Summer 2004)

Example: The American Revolution in Georgia

Continental Currency issued by Georgia, 1777. From the Georgia Historical Society Objects Collection, A-1361-362c.

Arrest Warrant for Governor James Wright, January 1776. From the Joseph Vallence Bevan papers, MS 71. Courtesy of the Georgia Historical Society.

Recollections of a Georgia Loyalist by Edith Lichtenstein Johnston.