

Name: _____ Date: _____

Exploring a Primary Source – Worksheet

Definition “Primary Source”: the raw materials of history—original documents and objects that were created at the time under study (Library of Congress)

Directions:

- Select a primary source and read it carefully
- Use the questions below to help you identify and learn more about this document
- Fill out as many answers as you can! Each document is different and sometimes we can discover more about some primary sources and their authors than others.

Main Question: What happened and how did people respond at the beginning of the American Revolution?

The Document:

1. Who wrote this document?
2. What type of document is it? (some examples might be: letter, diary, pension file, reminiscence, newspaper)
3. When was this document written?

The Historical Event:

4. When did this event happen?
5. Where did this event take place?
6. Does the writer mention other people by name? Who?
7. In your own words, briefly summarize the event as described by the primary source writer?

8. What was the outcome of the event according to the writer?

Responses:

9. **Immediate Reactions:** Explore how people initially responded to the event. Were there immediate emotions, actions, or changes in society? Consider both individual and collective responses.

10. **Long-Term Effects:** Investigate the long-term consequences of the event. How did it shape society, politics, or culture over time? Were there any lasting impacts that are still evident today?

Reflection:

11. Consider any parallels or connections between the historical event and contemporary issues or events. How does understanding the past help us make sense of the present?

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