Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Document Types in Research: Primary vs. Secondary**

A SECONDARY SOURCE is a secondhand account about people, events, topics or places that is based on what some other writer has experienced. Good examples of SECONDARY SOURCES are books, newspapers, pamphlets, encyclopedias and other materials in which information has been gathered for you. The original material of a person is called a primary source. When you use first-hand, eyewitness accounts to help you write a story, book, report or film, you are creating a SECONDARY SOURCE. Remember, when you are a good researcher, you become an eyewitness to history! Try to identify other examples of SECONDARY SOURCES in the activity below.

ARE YOU A GOOD RESEARCHER???  
Read the following examples of sources. For sources that you think are a Primary Source, put a P. If you think it is a Secondary Source, put a letter S.

\_\_\_\_1. Diary kept by John Smith, a soldier in the Confederate Army, published in a

collection of Alabama papers

\_\_\_\_2. Photograph of Dr. George Washington Carver taken in 1898  
\_\_\_\_3. Biography of George Washington  
\_\_\_\_4. Newspaper article about the assassination of President Kennedy written on

November 23, 1963  
\_\_\_\_5. Television mini-series about President Franklin Roosevelt's life  
\_\_\_\_6. Scrapbook kept by Mrs. Mary Smith in 1883 with copies of recipes and household

hints  
\_\_\_\_7. Photograph album containing pictures of classmates at Tuskegee Institute in 1923  
\_\_\_\_8. Letter written by Emily Smith to her friend Pamela Jones, May 3, 1826,

describing her trip by wagon from North Carolina to Huntsville, Alabama and the

log cabin her father was building for the family  
\_\_\_\_9. Article about Martin Luther King, Jr. in *People Magazine, 1988*  
\_\_\_\_10. Information about Creek Indians in *World Book Encyclopedia*  
\_\_\_\_11. Cassette tape of an interview with Dr. James Lee describing his life as a doctor

in Montgomery County during the 1920s  
\_\_\_\_12. *The Story of Alabama*, a textbook by Virginia Van der Veer Hamilton  
\_\_\_\_13. Matthew Mason's will, 1896  
\_\_\_\_14. Map of Alabama drawn by John LaTourette, 1841  
\_\_\_\_15. Minutes from the 1898 organization of Dexter Avenue United Methodist Church