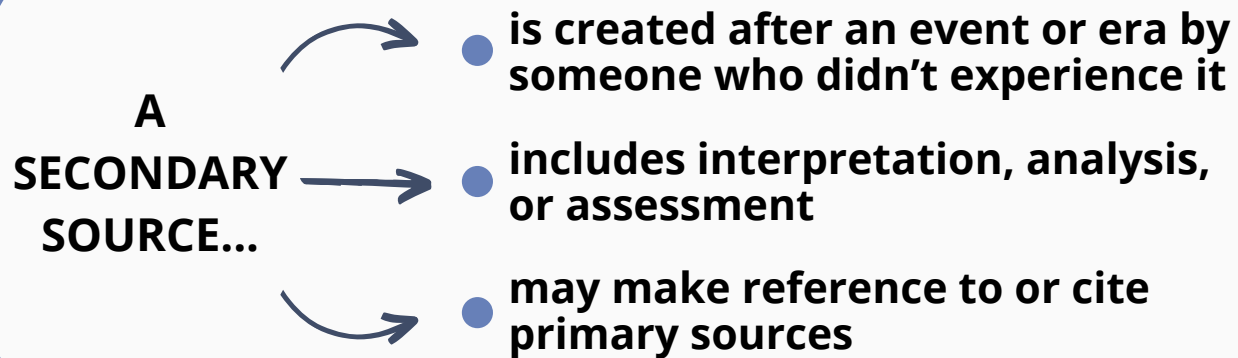


## Media Literacy Mini-Lesson #2

# SECONDARY SOURCES

Secondary sources help interpret or explain firsthand accounts (a.k.a. primary sources)



### Secondary sources can take many forms:

Some of the most common forms of secondary sources are textbooks, histories, articles in academic journals, and commentary in newspapers, which can help us understand how people reacted to historical events as they happened.

**Sometimes sources can be both primary and secondary, depending on how they're used.**

*Imagine you're a researcher trying to learn what actually happened at the Boston Tea Party. You find a pamphlet circulated at the time, written by a journalist who was not in Boston during the event. That would be a **secondary source**.*

*But imagine your research question was "How did journalists in the colonies react to the Boston Tea Party?" Now, that pamphlet could be considered a **primary source**, for the purposes of your question.*

**PBS NEWSHOUR**  
**CLASSROOM**

## JOURNALISM IN ACTION

**The following source** was made by Paul Revere, a famous Revolutionary War figure. It depicts the 1770 Boston Massacre, in which British soldiers shot five protesting colonists. **It is important to note that Revere's depiction of the scene was published 3 weeks after the events and differs from eyewitness accounts.**



<p>             "Jolly Bottoms" for the Sons de              They halloo'd Waiks behind with guttles Glee              While faithful E-n and his fave G Bands.              With inward E-n can direct their blood Bands.              Like free Barbarians grinning on their Prey,              Approve the Carnage and enjoy the Day.           </p>	<p>             If feeding drops in Image from Anagallis              If foolish Sarcus Iubans for a Tongue              Or a weaving World can ought appease              The plaintive Whistle of Victims flash as White              The Patriotic copious Rays for each are fired              A glorious Tribute which exalts the Dead.           </p>	<p>             But know'st thou, O Mother, that to mortal Glee              Ever-Jordan fire the Bard raves of his Soul              Should swell?—C'en to the Eternal of the Land              Should the reluctant Victim from her Hand              Shall Exorcisms on this Plate infernal?              Shall reach a JUNGLE, who never came to           </p>
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The unhappy sufferers were Messrs SAM<sup>l</sup> GRAY SAM<sup>l</sup> MAVERICK JAM<sup>s</sup> CALDWELL CRISTUS ATTUCKS & PAT<sup>h</sup> CAL  
Killed Six wounded two of them (CHRIST<sup>s</sup> MONK & JOHN CLARK) Mortally

The bloody massacre perpetrated in King Street  
Boston on March 5th 1770 by a party of the 29th  
Regt. Boston : Engrav'd Printed & Sold by Paul  
Revere, 1770. Library of Congress

**Describe what is happening in the image. What did you notice or wonder about?**

**Is Revere's engraving a primary or secondary source for a researcher trying to determine what happened at the Boston Massacre? Why?**