Finding and Using Sources

Figuring Out What’s Out There
Primary Sources

- A primary source is a document or physical object which was written or created during the time under study. These sources were present during an experience or time period and offer an inside view of a particular event.
Primary Sources

- Some types of primary sources include:
  - ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS (excerpts or translations acceptable): Diaries, speeches, manuscripts, letters, interviews, news film footage, autobiographies, official records
  - CREATIVE WORKS: Poetry, drama, novels, music, art
  - RELICS OR ARTIFACTS: Pottery, furniture, clothing, buildings
Primary Sources

- Examples of primary sources include:
  - *Diary of Anne Frank* - Experiences of a Jewish family during WWII
  - The Constitution of Canada - Canadian History
  - A journal article reporting NEW research or findings
  - Weavings and pottery - Native American history
  - Plato's *Republic* - Women in Ancient Greece
Secondary Sources

- What is a secondary source?
  A secondary source interprets and analyzes primary sources. These sources are one or more steps removed from the event.

- Secondary sources may have pictures, quotes or graphics of primary sources in them. Some types of secondary sources include:
  - PUBLICATIONS: Textbooks, magazine articles, histories, criticisms, commentaries, encyclopedias
Secondary Sources

Examples of secondary sources include:

- A journal/magazine article which interprets or reviews previous findings
- A history textbook
- A book about the effects of WWI