

Be a History Detective

Primary Sources Tell a Story!

Historians are just like detectives! They study documents such as letters, diaries, newspapers, birth certificates, marriage licenses, records, photographs and objects to find clues about important events, why things happened and how people lived. These are clues and we call them *primary sources*. By studying primary sources we can learn about the past. You can find clues in the diary Barsinia wrote to learn more about life and travel to a new frontier. When looking at her diary ask your self...

WHO wrote the document and how can I tell?

WHAT is the document about?

WHEN was it written? Is it dated? Or does it tell about an event with a date? Does Barsinia write about events or describe daily activities that give me an idea where in time she lived?

WHERE was it written? How can I tell?

WHY was it written?

Tell a story about your self for others to read! Collect letters, cards, pictures, drawings and mementos that describe who you are and what you like to do. You can share these with your classmates. Make a book to put them in!