



## Student book questions

### 8A Rich task Caring for Country

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Pages 250–251

## Skill drill: Analysing primary and secondary sources

The primary and secondary sources that historians use to understand the past all tell different stories. It is the job of historians to examine these sources and come to a conclusion about their usefulness and reliability. Follow these steps when analysing primary and secondary sources.

**Step 1** Identify who wrote, produced or made the source. Is their personal perspective obvious in the source?

**Step 2** Identify what type of source it is. Was the source created at the time?

**Step 3** Find out when the source was created. How old is it? Is it an eyewitness account or did someone create it?

**Step 4** Decide why it was written or produced. Was it meant to entertain or argue something? Does its creator have anything to gain personally from producing the source? What may have influenced its creator?

### Apply the skill

- 1 Can modern historians develop a complete understanding of the ways that Wurundjeri people lived before Europeans arrived?

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Class: \_\_\_\_\_

2 Examine Sources 1–4 and complete a copy of the table below.

	Is it a primary or secondary source?	What kind of source is it? (e.g. painting, photograph, artefact)	Who created the source?	What does the source show or describe?	How does the source show or describe the way Kulin people cared for Country?
Source 1					
Source 2					
Source 3					
Source 4					

3 Once you have completed the table, use the information you have collected to write a short paragraph about life in the Kulin nation before Europeans arrived.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Class: \_\_\_\_\_

## Extend your understanding

Historical sources are more useful to historians and archaeologists if their origin can be traced and other sources can be located that verify the information provided by them. Historians refer to this as **provenance**. Read Source 5 and complete the questions below to get a better idea of how this process works.

### Source 5

In the forests and hills, possum was also a staple source of food and clothing. The flesh of the possum was cooked and eaten, while the skin was saved to be sewn into valuable waterproof cloaks. These cloaks were fastened at the shoulder and extended to the knees.

'Wurundjeri-willam: Aboriginal Heritage of Merri Creek', by the Merri Creek Management Committee, accessed 15 July 2016, [http://mcmc.org.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=31&Itemid=216](http://mcmc.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=31&Itemid=216).

1 What can you learn about the Wurundjeri people's way of life from this source?

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2 How would you go about finding out how accurate or reliable this source is?

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3 Suggest two additional sources that you could investigate to get a better understanding about the way of life of Wurundjeri people before colonisation.

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